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MONTROSE AND DR. R. A. TORREY

DR. R. A. TORREY and the Montrose Bible Conference must ever be indissolubly connected. In a very real sense the latter is the child of the former. Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Torrey selected Montrose, nestling in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania, as an ideal conference site and during the twenty-one years that he directed the annual gatherings in this place, it was an outstanding retreat for lovers of the Word of God. Here Christian fellowship, Bible teaching, and evangelistic testimony combined to produce a spiritual yet popular centre where Christians could join physical recuperation with edification in the things of God. Since the Lord called Dr. Torrey to be with Himself, the directors have ever sought to make the Montrose Conference a monument to his unswerving faithfulness to Christ and so, from year to year, continue the testimony that he established.

The influence of Montrose has been felt to the ends of the earth. Many have been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ in this hallowed spot, and here scores have heard the call that led them to yield wholly to the Lord for service, as a result of which numbers today in foreign lands are making known the Gospel of the grace of God. Workers at home have been quickened and stirred afresh to increased devotedness through the Montrose spirit.

From year to year reverent groups gather about the sepulchre on the hilltop where Dr. Torrey's earthly remains await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him, and many are the testimonies of lives completely changed through the ministry of this man of God. What a reaping will be his in the great harvest-day and what a rich reward will he receive when he stands at the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of his service here!

Until that day may it please the Lord to keep each one of us cleaving to the Saviour that he adored, and standing true to the faith he proclaimed so fearlessly.

H. A. IRONSIDE.

Chicago, Ill.
May 27, 1933.

THE
R. A. TORREY YEAR-BOOK

EVANGELICAL
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

WORKS BY
A. CHESTER MANN

F. B. MEYER
Preacher, Teacher, Man of God
Illustrated . . . $2.00

THE R. A. TORREY YEAR BOOK
A Thought, a Meditation, and a Scripture Passage for every Day in the Year . . . $1.50

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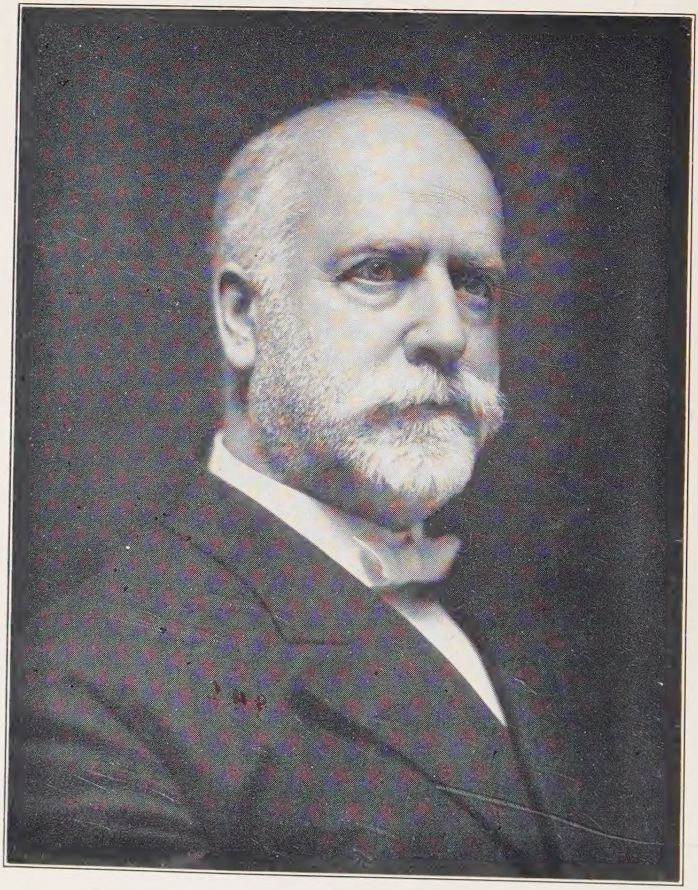

REUBEN ARCHER TORREY

THE R. A. TORREY YEAR-BOOK

A Thought, a Meditation, and a Related Scripture Passage, for Every Day in the Year

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

A. CHESTER MANN

Author of "F. B. Meyer, Preacher, Teacher, Man of God," etc.

1940

NEW YORK CHICAGO
Fleming H. Revell Company
NEW YORK AND EDINBURGH

242
T6 M4
42,012

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Fleming H. Revell Company

New York : 158 Fifth Avenue
Chicago : 803 Cass Street
London : 21 Paternoster Square
Edinburgh : 99 George Street

CONTENTS

I. A Good Man's Heritage (*Psalm 1*) . . . 6
II. Biographical Foreword 7
III. How To Know God 10
IV. A Word in Explanation 11
V. Daily Readings 13
VI. Theme-Index 157

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BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

PSALM 1

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BIOGRAPHICAL FOREWORD

REUBEN ARCHER TORREY was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, January 28, 1856. He received his early education in private schools and was graduated from Yale University (A. B.) in 1875 and Yale Divinity School (B. D.) in 1878. He was ordained a Congregational minister the same year, and on October 22, 1879, married Clara B. Smith of Garrettsville, Ohio. During 1882-3, he pursued a special course of theological study at Leipsic and Erlangen, and on his return to America, engaged in city mission work in the city of Minneapolis, Minn., for several years. He then became associated with Dwight L. Moody, and in 1889 was appointed Superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill., in which office he remained nine years.

During the early part of the century Dr. Torrey began to engage in world evangelism, and in the course of a dozen years, or so, conducted evangelistic campaigns in Britain, Australia, China, Japan, Korea, India, and other lands, and in all parts of the United States. In 1912, he was chosen Dean of the Bible Institute, Los Angeles, and in 1915, called to the pulpit of the Church of the Open Door, in that city. He remained in both offices until 1924, and upon resigning engaged in independent teaching and preaching down to the end of his

life. The close of a wonderfully full life of devoted Christian service came on October 25, 1928, on which date Dr. Torrey died at his home in Asheville, N. C., in the seventy-second year of his age.

Dr. Torrey's death created a great void in the ranks of effective Bible teachers and preachers—a void that is not filled, and, so far as present-day appearances appear to indicate, will remain unfilled for many a year to come. "And thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty." He had other fine gifts in ample measure: he was a born organizer, precise and capable in business affairs and to those who knew him intimately—he never wore his heart on his sleeve—he had a genius for loving friendship and constancy of spirit. He taught earnestly, and his knowledge was commensurate with his zeal. He preached the Gospel in faith and with rare courage. The Spirit of God was upon him, and led him to proclaim a message of full salvation in many lands. Through him, thousands heard the Word of life, and, by him, were brought to the feet of the Saviour of mankind.

Dr. Torrey never bowed the knee to Baal, never subscribed to any theological fashion of the hour, nor sought to bend the truth to fit the whims and wishes of men. It was always enough for Him to know that he stood on Bible ground and that God's approval was set upon his ministry. For his unswerving loyalty, the Church of God in America and other lands, stands vastly endebted to R. A. Torrey. In the heart of great cities, amid the peaceful associations of such gatherings

of God's people as assemble annually at centres like Montrose and East Northfield, from pulpit and platform everywhere, his voice—a voice in which there was never a note of peradventure or misgiving—for more than fifty years, was heard proclaiming the unassailable integrity of Holy Writ. That voice is now stilled; yet the influence of the man who owned it is destined to continue, and be perpetuated in the inspiration and guidance he gave to thousands, as he opened unto them the beauties and verities of Holy Scripture, and led them into the hallowed precincts of praise and prayer.

A. C. M.

New York, N. Y.

EVANGELICAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

HOW TO KNOW GOD

HOW shall we truly and accurately and fully know God? There is but one way and that is by studying Him as He has been pleased to reveal Himself in His one Book, the Bible, and in His One Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. The greatest philosophers' speculations about God, unillumined and unguided by the Word of God and the living Spirit of God, are futile and utterly worthless. Man by mere intellectual searching cannot find out God. To the natural intellect God is as Herbert Spencer long ago declared, "The Unknowable." But God can be fully, joyously, and rapturously known even in the life that now is, by studying and pondering the complete revelation He has made of Himself in the written Word and the Incarnate Word—the Bible and Jesus Christ; studying them and pondering them under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, whom God gives to them that obey Him.

R. A. TORREY

1940

A WORD IN EXPLANATION

EVERY meditation finding place in these pages is, Dr. Torrey's own; and, save for the deletion of, here and there, a redundant word or phrase, is reproduced exactly as the famous evangelist wrote or uttered it.

The process of compilation proved to be anything but an easy task. Dr. Torrey was not a master of sparkling epigram; nor was he given to the practice of presenting the truth in tabloid form. As all those familiar with his writings are well aware that his methods of analysis and dissertation were such as prohibit the indiscriminate use of his material for the general purposes of a Year-Book. By dint of considerable diligence, however, it was found to be possible to select and assemble a sufficient number of brief passages from Dr. Torrey's pages which embody, in small compass, the gist, or core, of whatever theme the evangelist had under consideration, at the time the selected sentiments were given utterance.

It will be noted that an order usually followed in the compilation of books of this description, has been reversed; that is to say, the Scripture passages, instead of preceding the meditations, follow them. This arrangement has been adopted simply to avoid Dr. Torrey's paragraphs being regarded as portions of direct comment on the texts. Such is not the case. Indeed, in any ordinarily accepted meaning of the term, these Scriptures should not be regarded as texts at all. They are *foot-*

notes, introduced at the option of the compiler, and, in every instance, might have been replaced by one or two others—doubtless would have been, had the selection been at the disposal of another. Indeed, the compiler, in selecting this or the other Scripture, had the thought directly in mind, that a user of the Year Book, might possibly be led to search the Scriptures for another, and in his or her judgment, a more fittingly related text than the one chosen, and thus have the zest for Bible study quickened and promoted. It is sincerely hoped, however, that, in its existing form, this combination may be enabled worthily to take its place among others of its kind, and to contribute some small share of aid and stimulus to the Christian believer in his meditative moments, while serving, at the same time as a tribute to the memory of a just and true man and faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

A. C. M.

New York, N. Y.

JANUARY 1

ETERNAL LIGHT

IF there be a God such as the Bible describes, both the present and the future life are full of brightness for those who take the right attitude toward that God. But if there be no God, then the sun has gone out of the heavens, and a darkness that can be felt broods over all the earth.

I went mourning without the sun.—JOB 30:28.

And He shall be as the light of the morning when the sun riseth.—2 SAMUEL 23:4.

JANUARY 2

VIGILANCE AND VICTORY

THE world tends to draw us down, both by its gratifications and its cares. There is only one way by which we can rise triumphant above these things—by constant watching unto prayer.

Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.—PSALM 55:17.

JANUARY 3

HARMONIOUS POWER

WHERE there is real agreement; where the Spirit of God brings two believers into perfect harmony as concerning that which they may ask of God; where the Spirit lays the same burden on two hearts—in all such prayer there is absolutely irresistible power.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.—MATTHEW 18:19.

JANUARY 4

". . . THAT INHABITETH ETERNITY"

THERE is an eternity back of us, there must be; the utterly inconceivable is, at the same time, the certainly true. And God throughout all the eternity back of us is the Eternal I AM, and He is the Eternal I AM today, and in the Eternity still ahead of us He will always be the Eternal I AM.

Even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.—PSALM 90:2.

JANUARY 5

THE CENTRAL SPRING

IT is a great thing to have your source of joy within yourself; to have it, not in your environment, nor in your circumstances, nor in your possessions, but in the fountain of your own heart.

But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.—JOHN 4:14.

JANUARY 6

ALIVE FOR EVERMORE

THE only Christ that many professed Christians know is the historic Christ—the Christ who lived centuries ago and died on Calvary, an atoning sacrifice for sin. But, we need to know something further than that, if we are to be like Him; we need to know a *living* Christ, a Christ who not only arose and ascended to the right hand of the Father, but who has come down to earth again and dwells in us, the hope of glory.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye being rooted and grounded in love . . . might be filled with all the fulness of God.—EPHESIANS 3:17,19.

JANUARY 7

THE HURRYING CHASE

MANY miss God's guidance by doing things too soon. Had they waited until God had enabled them to see clearly, under the illumination of His Holy Spirit, they would have avoided mistakes which brought disaster in their train.

He that believeth shall not make haste.—ISAIAH 28:16.

JANUARY 8

THE ESSENCE OF EQUITY

GOD'S righteousness pledges Him to forgive us our sins because He, Himself, has provided an atonement that perfectly satisfies the demands of His own righteousness and holiness; and God is righteous, therefore He will not require payment twice.

Being justified . . . through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth . . . to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins. . . . —ROMANS 3:24,25.

JANUARY 9

THE SINGLE AIM

THERE is only one right attitude for the human will, and that is an attitude of absolute surrender to God. The whole aim of life should not be to please self, but God, in all things, both great and small.

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.—1 THESSALONIANS 2:4.

JANUARY 10

THE CONTINUING CHRIST

SOME receive Christ as a sin-bearer and thus find pardon, but do not get beyond that, and so their life is one of daily failure. Others receive Him as their risen Saviour also, and thus enter into an experience of victory over sin. But we must also take Him as our Deliverer from the power of sin, our keeper of our souls. Thus shall we achieve daily victory over sin.

That through death He might destroy him that had the power over death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.—HEBREWS 2:14,15.

JANUARY 11

GOD OR—NAUGHT!

EVERY one who denies the deity of Christ, practically lays at His door the charge of blasphemy and imposture. To all intents and purposes, the man who denies the divinity of Christ, justifies His crucifixion.

I and my Father are one.—JOHN 10:30.
I am the Son of God.—MATTHEW 27:43.

JANUARY 12

THE LIBERTY OF THE CHILDREN

A SPIRITUAL life, governed by a lot of rules is a life of bondage. Sooner or later one is sure to break one or another of these man-made rules, and to get into condemnation. The true Christian life is the life of a trusting, glad, fear-free child; not led by rules, but by

the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the heart and directing every movement of the outward life.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.—ROMANS 8:15.

JANUARY 13

DEAD, YET GLORIOUSLY ALIVE!

THE whole secret of being like Christ is, that we must count selves dead; we must give up our self-efforts after likeness to Christ; we must distrust our own strength as much as we distrust our own weakness and our own sin, and instead of striving to live like Christ, let Christ live in us, as He greatly desires to do.

That life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.—GALATIANS 2:20.

JANUARY 14

IN THE CHAMBER OF THINE IMAGERY

NEVER, for a moment, look at any picture that taints your imagination with evil suggestion. Avoid, as you would poison, every painting, every engraving, every etching, every photograph that leaves a spot of impurity on your mind, but feast your soul upon pictures that make you holier, kinder, more sympathetic, more tender, more like your Lord.

Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.—PROVERBS 4:15.

JANUARY 15

IN HIS STEAD

ONE of the most precious thoughts contained in the whole Word of God, for this present dispensation, is, that during the absence of our Lord, until that glad day when He shall come again, another Person just as Divine as He, just as loving and tender and strong to help, is by my side and dwells in my heart every moment, to commune with me, and to help me in every emergency that can possibly arise.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.—JOHN 14:16.

JANUARY 16

NO OTHER WAY

NO man, no matter how carefully he has been reared, no matter how well he has been sheltered from the vices and evils of this world, is a child of God until he receives Jesus Christ. We are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, and in no other way.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son . . . to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.—GALATIANS 4:4,5.

JANUARY 17

CLEANSING COMPANIONSHIP

ONE result of walking with God is purity of heart and life. Nothing else is so cleansing as the consciousness of God's presence. Things previously tolerated, become intolerable, when brought into the white light of the presence of the Holy One of Israel.

Who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart.—PSALM 24:3,4.

JANUARY 18

FADED JOY

THERE are many who once knew the presence of God, every day and every hour, but now, they know it no longer. The old and heavenly joy has faded from their lives, and they wonder why it is. Ah! there is no mystery—disobedience. Get right with God, surrender anew to His will, and all will again be well.

Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.—EZEKIEL 18:30.

JANUARY 19

BLESSED ASSURANCE

THE statement that there is pardon and eternal life for anyone who will believe in Jesus Christ, is absolutely sure. Is there anyone who is heartily sick of sin, and heartily tired of death? Then, believe on the Lord Jesus, and receive pardon and eternal life.

. . . Let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.—ISAIAH 55:7.

JANUARY 20

MY LORD AND I

CAN you not remember some ecstatic hour of your life when you walked, and talked, and, at times, were silent, with an earthly companion whom you loved as you loved no other? Oh, happy hour! Yet only faintly suggestive of the rapture that comes from walking with God.

And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in His name, saith the Lord.—ZECHARIAH 10:12.

JANUARY 21

". . . EXCEPT THOU BLESS ME!"

ONE of the great needs of the present day is, not only that men and women will start out to pray for things, but that they pray on and on, until they obtain that which they seek from the hand of the Lord.

And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry night and day unto Him, though He bear long with them?—LUKE 18:7.

JANUARY 22

THE REWARD OF THE RESOLUTE

GOD keeps the man whose mind is stayed upon Him, who looks, not at self but at God, not at circumstances, but at God and who puts confidence in Him. There is neither promise nor security for the fitful, fearful, experimenting heart.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee.—ISAIAH 26:3.

JANUARY 23

THE UNCLEANSED HEART

MANY a man of great natural gifts, and unusual knowledge is trying to do work for God, and meeting with little or no success. People wonder why it is that their work is devoid of results; but if we knew their secret life as God knows it, we would understand their failure. There is sin before God. It has been often and well said, that "God does not demand a beautiful vessel for His work, but He *does* demand a clean one."

. . . Did not He that made that which is without make that which is within also?—LUKE 11:40.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes.—ISAIAH 1:16.

JANUARY 24

ALL GLORIOUS WITHIN!

THE dazzling white light that glorified the face and garments of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, was the outshining of moral purity within.

In whom is no guile.—JOHN 1:47.

JANUARY 25

HOLY MIRTH

GO not to any place of amusement where you cannot take Christ, and where you do not think Christ would feel at home. Christ went to places of mirth when He was here upon earth, but there are many modern places of amusement where Christ would not go. Consequently, they are to be avoided. Seek, always, pure pleasures.

Then he said unto them . . . This day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. . . . And all the people went their way, to eat and to drink and to send portions and to make great mirth.—NEHEMIAH 8:10, 12.

JANUARY 26

OUR RIGHTFUL HERITAGE

THE Bible makes a definite and unmistakable declaration, that every one who receives Jesus becomes a child of God. Therefore, every believer in Jesus may *know* that he is a child of God. He may know it on the surest of all grounds, *i.e.*, because the Word of God asserts it, without equivocation or semblance of doubt.

But as many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His name. —JOHN 1:12. R.V.

JANUARY 27

PRAYING THROUGH

WE should be careful about what we ask from God; but when once we begin to pray for a thing, we should never give up praying for it either until we get it, or until God makes it very clear and definite that it is not His will to grant it.

For he that cometh to God, must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.—HEBREWS 11:6.

JANUARY 28

NEVER ALONE

THE thought of the Holy Spirit being a personal friend always at hand, is a cure for all loneliness. If the thought of the Holy Spirit as an ever-present friend once enter your heart and stay there, you will never have another lonely moment as long as you live.

Then was I by Him as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.—PROVERBS 8:30.

JANUARY 29

ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

THE true Church consists of all true believers—all who are united to Jesus Christ by a living faith in Himself. In its outward organization, it is divided into communions, sects and congregations, but in spite of these divisions, the true Church is one.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.—EPHESIANS 4:4,5.

JANUARY 30

SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE

PRAYER promotes our spiritual growth as nothing else, except the study of God's Word. True prayer and true Bible-study, go hand-in-hand, in the work of nourishing the soul.

As newborn babes, desire the milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.—1 PETER 2:2.

JANUARY 31

SALVATION'S INTERCHANGE

FORGIVENESS is negative—putting away sin: Justification is positive—reckoning positively righteous. By reason of Christ's death there is a reversal of positions between Christ and the believer. In death, Christ takes our place of condemnation, and we take His place of acceptance, before God.

Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.—ROMANS 5:9.

FEBRUARY 1

AN ADVOCATE WITH GOD

OUR desires must be not our own, but Christ's, and our prayers must not, in reality, be our own prayers, but Christ praying in us. Such prayers will always be in harmony with God's will, and the Father heareth Him always. When our prayers fail it is because they are indeed, *our* prayers. We have conceived the desire and framed the petition of ourselves, instead of looking to Christ to voice Himself through us.

For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me. . . . I pray for them: I pray not for the world.—JOHN 17:8, 9.

FEBRUARY 2

THE SAME ETERNALLY

THE well-established science of to-day will be the ridicule of thinking men, to-morrow. But God's thought never changes; it is always the same, and it is always true. How foolish, then, to give up the unchanging and eternally true Word of the self-existent, eternal and eternally unchanging God, for the ever-changing scientific and philosophical theories of constantly changing man!

The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.—JAMES 1:17.

FEBRUARY 3

THE GRACIOUS GUEST

I KNOW of no thought better calculated to put one in the dust and *keep* one in the dust, than the great Biblical truth of the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person coming to take up His dwelling in our hearts, to take possession of our life and to use us as He, in His infinite wisdom sees fit to do.

The Lord . . . bringeth low and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust . . . to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory.—1 SAMUEL 2:7,8.

FEBRUARY 4

THE QUICKENING FLAME

NO amount of listening to the testimony of men regarding Jesus Christ, and no amount even of studying what the Scriptures have to say about Him, will ever lead anyone to a true and living and saving knowledge,

unless the holy, living Spirit of God, take the testimony of men, or take the testimony of the written Word, and interpret it directly to the heart.

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life. —JOHN 6:63.

FEBRUARY 5

GIFTS FOR MEN!

ARE you tempted to do some evil thing? If so, remember that Jesus rose from the dead; remember that, at this moment, He is living at the right hand of God; remember that He has all power in heaven and on earth, and therefore, can give you victory right now. Believe what God tells you in His Word—that Jesus has power to save you to the uttermost.

All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end. . . . —MATTHEW 28:18,20.

FEBRUARY 6

THE SIGHT THAT SATISFIES

IF Satan succeed in getting us to keep looking at, and brooding over our sins, he will soon get us discouraged, and discouragement means failure. But if we keep on looking at what God looks at—the death of Jesus Christ in our place, that completely atones for every sin that we ever committed—we shall never be discouraged because of the greatness of our sins.

And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee O Satan . . . is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? . . . And unto him [Joshua] He said, Behold I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee.—ZECHARIAH 3:2,4.

FEBRUARY 7

REASONABLE READING

IN seeking guidance from God's Word we must take the words as they are found in their connection, and interpret them according to the proper meaning of the words used, and apply them to that, which it is evident from the context, they were intended to apply. A word of warning is needed against seeking God's guidance from the Word, in fantastic and unwarranted ways.

The inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.—JOB 32:8.

FEBRUARY 8

THE COMPLETED WORK OF GRACE

IT is at His coming that the Lord Jesus is to establish our hearts in holiness before our God and Father. It is through our Lord making us to increase and abound in love unto one another and unto all men that this is accomplished. It is not in the life that now is, nor is it at death, but at the coming of Christ, that we are to entirely sanctified.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love . . . to the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.—1 THESSALONIANS 3:12,13.

FEBRUARY 9

SACRED SILENCE

I KNEW a man out in China who had the rare gift of keeping his mouth shut in seven different languages. He was a quite a young man but he had acquired a great

reputation for sagacity, because he so seldom said anything. He listened. But the place of places to keep still is when studying the Bible; keep still and listen, and let God do the talking.

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart . . . and be still.—PSALM 4:4.

FEBRUARY 10

CHANNELS ONLY

LET us never forget that it is impossible to convince any man or woman of sin; in all our preaching and in all our personal work, therefore, let us constantly look to the Holy Spirit to do the work through us; let us be sure, also, that we are in such relation to God as permits the Holy Spirit to do His work through us.

. . . We speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual with spiritual.—1 CORINTHIANS 2:13.

FEBRUARY 11

LABOURERS TOGETHER

NO man can keep up his physical strength without exercise, and no man can keep up his spiritual strength without spiritual exercise, *i.e.*, without working for his Master. The working Christian is the happy Christian. The working Christian is the strong Christian; the working Christian is the Christian patterned after the manner of the Lord Jesus.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.—JAMES 2:17.

My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.—JOHN 5:17.

FEBRUARY 12

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

GOD has called every one of us to a victorious life, and the secret of this victorious life is looking to Christ for victory. Through looking to Christ crucified, we obtain pardon and enjoy peace. Through looking to Christ risen, we obtain present victory over the power of sin. If you have lost sight of the risen Christ, confess your sin and know it to be forgiven, and the vision of Christ will be restored.

If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 JOHN 1:9.

FEBRUARY 13

THE MOTIVE POWER

THE graces of the Spirit ought to be richly revealed in our lives; the power of the Spirit ought to be mightily manifested in our work. It is the privilege of every believer to be a man of power in service. Grace and power are both at our disposal, grace for living like Christ, and power in working for Him.

Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also.—JOHN 14:12.

FEBRUARY 14

PROFITABLE PRAYING

ONE night of prayer will save us from many nights of insomnia. Time spent in prayer is not wasted; it is time invested at big interest, yielding gloriously satisfactory returns.

And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. . . . And the whole multitude sought to touch Him; for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all.—LUKE 6:12, 19.

FEBRUARY 15

THE CONVICTING SIN

THE sin of which the Holy Spirit convicts men and women is not the sin of drunkenness, not the sin of stealing, not the sin of adultery, not the sin of murder, nor of any other immorality or crime, but just the sin of not believing on the Son of God—not believing on Jesus Christ.

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world.—1 JOHN 4:3.

FEBRUARY 16

THE ALL-SEEING EYE

THE Lord sees everything we do, not only in the daylight, but under the cover of night; He hears every word we utter, every careless word that escapes our lips; He sees every thought we entertain, every fleeting fancy that we allow a moment's lodgment in our mind, and if there be anything unholy, impure, immodest, uncharitable, indecorous, unkind, harsh, bitter, censorious, or unChristlike, in act or word or thought, He sees it and is grieved beyond expression.

He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the King shall be his friend.—PROVERBS 22:11.

FEBRUARY 17

RELYING ON GOD

TO believe God is to rely upon, or have unhesitating assurance of, the truth of God's testimony, even though it is unsupported by any other evidence; to have

unfaltering assurance of the fulfillment of His promises, even though everything may seem to be against its coming to pass.

Being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.—ROMANS 4:21.

FEBRUARY 18

ON GUARD!

MANY temptations come upon us unawares and unannounced, and all that we can do is to lift a cry to God for help, then and there; but many of the temptations of life we can see approaching us from the distance, and in such cases, the victory should be won before the temptations really reach us.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God . . . will with the temptation also make a way to escape.—1 CORINTHIANS 10:13.

FEBRUARY 19

IN HIS LIKENESS

JOHN WELCH, a spiritual hero of the sixteenth century, and son-in-law of John Knox, is said to have "reckoned that day ill spent, in the which he stayed not seven or eight hours in prayer." One who well remembered his ministry, said of him: "He was a type of Christ." Association with God made him like God.

And the Lord talked with Moses. . . . And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold the skin of his face shone.—EXODUS 33:9;34:30.

FEBRUARY 20

ALL THINGS NEW

BY the new birth we get a new mind, a mind that is open to the truth of God, that thinks the thoughts of God after Him; we get new affections, and love the things that God loves; we get a new will, that is in harmony with the will of God, that is set upon pleasing Him and not upon pleasing self.

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you . . . and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.—EZEKIEL 11:19, 20.

FEBRUARY 21

"NOTHING IN MY HAND I BRING!"

MERCY is what we need, grace is what we must have, or all our life and effort will end in complete failure. We have no right, and no strength save that which in both instances comes to us from and through Jesus Christ.

Grace be with you, mercy and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.—2 JOHN 2.

FEBRUARY 22

THE AGELESS WORD

THE utterances of Jesus Christ are not outgrown; they are as precious to-day, as in that far-off time when they were first spoken. They are as perfectly applicable to present-day needs as to the needs of *that* day. They contain the solution of all modern individual and social problems; they have perpetual youth. There is not one

single point at which the teachings of Jesus Christ have become antiquated or outgrown.

That in the ages to come, He might show the exceeding riches of His grace. . . . —EPHESIANS 2:7.

FEBRUARY 23

THE COMING OF THE KING

THE kingdom will never come until the King comes; yet there are many who have prayed often that the kingdom of God might come, who have never prayed once that the King might come. This prayer stands as the climax of Christian aspiration. It is the final prayer of the Bible. The whole revelation of the Book leads up to it. How often have you prayed it?

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.—REVELATION 22:20.

FEBRUARY 24

THE PARAMOUNT QUESTION

THE really simple life is the life of following Jesus. The most perplexing question will soon become as clear as day if you determine with all your heart to follow Him. Satan will always be ready to whisper to you, "Such and such a good man does it"; but all you need to answer is: "It matters not what this or that man may do, or not do. The only question to me is, 'What would Jesus do?' "

If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be.—JOHN 12:26.

FEBRUARY 25

THE REASONABLE RECORD

THE Bible is not a talisman, nor a fortune-telling book, nor a book of magic; it is a revelation from an infinitely wise God, made in a reasonable way, to reasonable beings.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord.—ISAIAH 1:18.

Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.—JOB 13:3.

FEBRUARY 26

OVER ALL!

GOD is Omnipotent. He can do anything, and all things. There is absolutely nothing too hard for Him. There are countless blessed and glorious applications of, and inferences from, this great truth; it will take you your entire lifetime to discover them all, and you will rejoice in them throughout all eternity.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude . . . saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.—REVELATION 19:6.

FEBRUARY 27

THE SENSE OF SIN

ONE of the great present-day needs of humanity is conviction of sin. The average man has no realisation of the awfulness of sin, nor of the fact that he, himself, is a great sinner before God. If men and women can be brought to a realisation of this one great fact, most of their doctrinal difficulties about the Deity of

Christ and the doctrine of the atonement, *through the shed blood of Jesus Christ*, will take care of themselves. They will be altogether too much overawed with their own unworthiness to cavil or question or doubt.

I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.—PSALM 32:5.

FEBRUARY 28

IMPERFECT, YET BELOVED

THE Church is made up of imperfect men and women, and, consequently, is an imperfect institution; but none the less, it is of Divine origin and God loves it, and every believer should realise that he belongs to it and should openly take his place in it, and bear his responsibilities regarding it.

. . . Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.—EPHESIANS 5:25,26.

FEBRUARY 29

FOLLOWING FAITH

THE more closely we follow Jesus, the more our faith in Him will grow. Those who follow most closely in His footsteps, have most faith. When Peter began to follow Christ afar off, his faith failed rapidly. The more denial of self, of true cross-bearing and humility there is in our lives, the more our faith will grow.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, . . . He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—JOHN 8:12.

MARCH 1

THE WORD OF ASSURANCE

IF we have this faith in Christ we have God's own written testimony that we have eternal life, that our sins are forgiven, that we are the children of God. We may feel forgiven, or we may *not* feel forgiven, but that does not matter. It is not a question of what we feel, but of what God says. God's Word is always to be believed.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.—JOHN 3:36.

MARCH 2

OWNED AND DECLARED

JESUS demands a public confession. He demands it for our own sake. This is the path of blessing. Many attempt to be disciples of Jesus and not let the world know it. No one has ever succeeded in that attempt. Being a secret disciple, ends in being no disciple at all.

Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven.—MATTHEW 10:32.

MARCH 3

FULL SURRENDER

THE main point in the whole matter of Christian living, is absolute surrender of the will to God, and the being willing to do joyfully the very things we would not like to do naturally, the very things in connection with which, there may be many disagreeable circumstances, yet doing them joyfully, simply because it is the will of God.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.—EPHESIANS 6:6.

MARCH 4

IN AGONY OF SPIRIT

WHEN we learn to come to God with an intensity of desire that wrings the soul, then shall we know a power in prayer to which most of us are now strangers.

With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me, will I seek Thee early.—ISAIAH 26:9.

MARCH 5

GUARDED OF GOD

WE are guarded by God's power, through faith, unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. This salvation brings in its train a glorious heritage, which none can take away from those for whom it is blessedly reserved and prepared.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.—1 PETER 1:4,5.

MARCH 6

"AND GOD HIMSELF IS LIGHT!"

IF we walk with God, more and more will His beauty illumine and reflect itself in our lives. Moses' very face shone as he came down from forty days and nights of communion with God. So will our lives shine with a heavenly glow and glory, if we habitually walk with God.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.—2 CORINTHIANS 3:18.

MARCH 7

TRANSFORMING POWER

BY the exercise and power of prayer the bitterest enemies of the Gospel have become its most valiant defenders, the greatest scoundrels the truest sons of God, the vilest women the purest saints.

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.—ACTS 9:11.

MARCH 8

"ONE STEP ENOUGH FOR ME"

IF we are willing to let God choose our path and go on, step by step, as He directs; and if we are daily studying His Word to know His will, and are listening for the still small voice of the Spirit, He will safely guide us to the journey's end.

Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.—PSALM 73:24.

MARCH 9

SAVED ETERNALLY

HE who truly comes to Christ, and enters with his whole heart in the fellowship of Christ; who fully receives Christ as his Saviour from the guilt and power of sin; who whole-heartedly and unreservedly surrenders to Christ as his Master—God keeps that man from ever perishing.

I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.—JOHN 10:28.

MARCH 10

THE KING'S OWN

THE more you make of Jesus Christ, the more He will make of you. It will save you from many a temptation and a thousand snares, if the fact is clearly known that you acknowledge Christ as Lord, in all things, and do His bidding, all the days, as He proceeds to make it known.

He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.—REVELATION 17:14.

MARCH 11

THE GROUND OF CONFIDENCE

IF one is to have the fullest measure of joy and power in Christian service, he must know that his sins are forgiven, that he is a child of God, and that he has eternal life. It is the believer's privilege to *know*.

These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.—1 JOHN 5:13. R.V.

MARCH 12

"NOR BLUSH TO SPEAK HIS NAME!"

THE life of confession is the life of full salvation. Indeed, the life of confession is the life of the *only* salvation. When we confess Christ before men, He confesses us before the Father, and the Father gives the Holy Spirit, as the seal of our salvation.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.—ROMANS 10:10.

MARCH 13

THE HOPE OF GLORY

NOTHING will plunge a man into deeper despair than to try to imitate Christ in his own strength. Instead of imitating Him we should open our hearts wide for Him to come in, and live His own life through us. Christ in us, is the secret of a Christian life, and the hope of our salvation.

If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.—REVELATION 3:20.

MARCH 14

"ON THE ROCK OF AGES FOUNDED"

NO young Christian, and no old Christian, can have real success in the Christian life without the fellowship of other believers. The Church is a divine institution, built by Jesus Christ Himself. It is the one institution that abides. Other institutions come and go; they do their work for, and in their day, and disappear, but the Church continues, and *will* continue, to the end.

The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—MATTHEW 16:18.

MARCH 15

SOMETHING MORE

THE central teaching of one great preacher in this land was "Quit your meanness," and he led thousands of people in this country to quit their meanness in many forms. But quitting one's meanness is not enough, however desirable it may be. What men need

to be told is, "Ye must be born again!" The meanness and every other out-cropping of evil will disappear.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—ROMANS 6:11.

MARCH 16

LEAVING THINGS TO GOD

IT is our privilege to live a life absolutely free from anxious thought. But this is possible only by taking every need, great and small, to the Father in trustful prayer. Then, the peace of God which passeth all understanding, will guard our hearts.

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—PHILIPPIANS 4:6. R.V.

MARCH 17

THE CUP OF HIS PASSION

THERE are many of us who are doing something for the salvation of the lost! But what we do is perfunctory; we do it simply because we think it is the thing we ought to do, not because there is a consuming passion within, that will not let us rest. If the professedly Christian men and women laboured with such a consuming passion for the salvation of the lost as Jesus laboured, how long would it be before hundreds and thousands were turning to Him, in penitence and tears?

And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.—LUKE 22:44.

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MARCH 18

PRAYER THAT PREVAILS

WE should pray unto the Lord with all our heart and all our soul. Many prayers are sincere so far as they go, but the whole heart is not in them. We cannot expect such prayers to have much power with God. When our whole heart is in the asking, His whole heart will be in the giving.

Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.—JEREMIAH 29:12,13.

MARCH 19

TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK

THE right kind of men and women are needed for foreign mission work; but you may not be the right kind of a man or woman for foreign missionary work. None the less, there is work for you to do just as important, in its place, as the work of the minister or the missionary. See that you fill your place, and fill it well.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.—ECCLESIASTES 9:10.

MARCH 20

BORNE AWAY!

IF you are troubled about any sin you ever committed, either in the past or in the present, just look at Jesus on the Cross; believe what God tells you about Him, that this sin which troubles you was laid upon Him. Thank God that sin is all settled; be full of gratitude

to Jesus who bore it in your place, and trouble about it no more. Having borne away your sin, Jesus does not desire you to trouble over it. Both sin and trouble are borne away!

And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.—ISAIAH 53:6.

MARCH 21

SERVING, NOT SAYING

TAKING Christ as Lord and King involves obedience to His will, as far as you know it, in each smallest detail of life. There are those who tell us that they have taken Christ as Lord and King who, at the same time, are disobeying Him daily in business, domestic, and social life, and in personal conduct. Such persons are deceiving themselves. None has taken Jesus as Lord and King who is not striving to obey Him in everything, each day.

Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?—LUKE 6:46.

MARCH 22

THE FLAWLESS WORD

GENERATION after generation of the enemies of Jesus have searched for a flaw in his recorded words. One generation failing to find such a flaw, has bequeathed the search to another, and so it has gone on until this day. But the search has failed—utterly failed. The words of Jesus stand out absolutely flawless, and having stood the scrutiny of the centuries, will stand for ever.

His truth endureth to all generations.—PSALM 100:5.

EVANGELICAL
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

MARCH 23

"THERE IS NONE BESIDE THEE!"

THE great foundation truth, is, that God is holy, unapproachably holy. The truth that God is holy is the great fundamental truth of the Bible—of the Old Testament and of the New, of the Jewish religion and of the Christian religion, which two, are, essentially, one.

Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.—LEVITICUS 19:2.

MARCH 24

THE SHINING PATHWAY

THERE is wonderful freedom in this life of simply following Jesus. This path is straight and plain. But the path of one who tries to shape his conduct by observing the conduct of others, is full of twists and turns and pitfalls. Keep looking at Jesus. Follow on trustingly where He leads.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—PROVERBS 4:18.

MARCH 25

BOUND TO BELIEVE

WE hear men these days inveighing against creeds; but every man who thinks, has a creed. A man's creed is what a man believes, and every man who thinks at all, must believe something. The only man who believes nothing, is the man whose mind is a perfect blank.

The reasonable man believes and happy is he whose faith is fixed on One that is mighty—in the Saviour of mankind.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, therefore have I spoken: we also believe, and therefore speak.—2 CORINTHIANS 4:13.

MARCH 26

THE LISTENING EAR

IF we give a listening ear to God's commands, He will give a listening ear to our petitions to Him. If, on the other hand, we turn a deaf ear to His precepts, He will be likely to turn a deaf ear to our prayers. Herein lies the explanation of much unanswered prayer.

For the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land . . . only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.—DEUTERONOMY 15:4,5.

MARCH 27

CONDITIONS OF COMMUNION

IT is vain for us to attempt to cultivate the presence of God, until we have accepted the provision that God, Himself, has made for putting away sin between us and Himself. Indeed, if we have any real thought of God's holiness and our own sinfulness, there could be no joy, only agony, in fellowship with Him, unless our sin be covered up and washed away.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.—PSALM 66:18.

MARCH 28

WORDS OF JESUS

IF we let the words of Christ dwell in us, they will stir us up to prayer. They will be the mould in which our prayers will be shaped, which necessarily will be along the line of God's will, and will prevail with Him. Prevailing prayer is almost an impossibility, where there is neglect of the Word of God.

If thou prepare thine heart . . . then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot: yea, thou shalt be stedfast and shalt not fear.—JOB 11:13,15.

MARCH 29

COMPLETED KNOWLEDGE

ANY one who does not know the Holy Spirit as a Person, has not attained unto a complete, well-rounded Christian experience. Any one who knows God the Father, and God the Son, yet does not know God the Spirit, has not attained unto the Christian conception of God, nor to an adequate spiritual experience.

Wherefore I give you to understand . . . that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.—1 CORINTHIANS 12:3.

MARCH 30

THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS

THE primary purpose of Christ in seeking a place to pray, seems to have been that He might be alone with God. The mountains were His "secret" place. Further than this, the mountains, in their majesty, seem to bring God wonderfully near to us, and us wonderfully

near to God. And it may have been that Jesus felt this, too. At any rate, He sought their quietude and their majesty, and there poured out His soul to His Father, and there received sustaining grace.

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone.—MATTHEW 14:23.

MARCH 31

THE FULLNESS OF HIS MIGHT

ANY one who really and intelligently believes in the God of the Bible, is bound to be an optimist. I am sometimes asked, "How can you be such a constant optimist under present conditions?" I will tell you: it is because I believe in God,—the God of the Bible—an Omnipotent God who can do anything, and bring all things to pass whatsoever He will.

Ah Lord God! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee.—JEREMIAH 32:17.

APRIL 1

MORE NEED, MORE GRACE

MEN ofttimes hesitate to pray to God, because their afflictions are so many. These afflictions are a warrant for praying, and a guarantee that God will hear you. Many are saying, "My troubles and sorrows are so many, what shall I do?" The answer is clear: Lay them before the Lord.

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. . . . —JAMES 5:13.

APRIL 2

THE DAILY ROUND

KINDLINESS is that attribute which leads men to be always looking for, and improving opportunities for doing any kind of good, to anybody and everybody, in every possible place, and at every possible time. Are you a kindly man? Jesus was. Are you a kindly woman? If not, you have not entered into the complete and symmetrical life of a follower of the Lord.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. —GALATIANS 6:10.

APRIL 3

THE WILL AND THE WORD

WHATSOEVER we ask from God we receive, when we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. If we ask anything according to His will He hears us, and when our prayer is heard, the thing asked is ours.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.—1 JOHN 5:14,15.

APRIL 4

"THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF CALM"

IT is possible for us to have the consciousness of the nearness and fellowship of God in our daily life, to talk with Him as we talk to an earthly friend, and to have Him talk to us. We can commune with Him, too,

in a silence that is far more meaningful than any words could be. Just as two friends, or a husband and wife, may sit enwrapped in a loving understanding which requires no speech, so may we commune with God.

Be still, and know that I am God.—PSALM 46:10.

APRIL 5

RECEIVING JESUS

THERE is nothing more important in the Christian life than beginning right. If we begin right we can go on right; and the right way to begin the Christian life is by receiving Jesus Christ. To any one who receives Him, He at once gives power to become an accepted son of the Divine Father.

As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.—JOHN 1:12.

APRIL 6

"BESIDE ME, THERE IS NONE ELSE"

GOD is a living God. He hears, sees, knows, feels, wills, acts, is a Person. He is to be distinguished from idols, which are things, not persons and He is to be distinguished from the works of His hands, which he formed in the greatness of His strength.

He that planteth the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not He correct? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not He know?—PSALM 94:9,10.

APRIL 7

NOT A PART, BUT THE WHOLE

MANY fail because they shrink back from entire surrender. They wish to serve Jesus with half a heart, with part of themselves, with part of their possessions. To hold back anything from Jesus, means a wretched life of stumbling and failure. Moreover, the effort is futile; for our secret reservations are all known to Him.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart . . . to keep back part of the price? . . . thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.—ACTS 5:3,4.

APRIL 8

THE WORD INFALLIBLE

THE Bible is the only book that always says all that it means to say and never says anything more than it means to say. The more rigidly one examines the Bible and the more closely he studies it, the more will he be filled with admiration for the amazing way in which it expresses the truth.

And that which was written was upright, even words of truth. —ECCLESIASTES 12:10.

APRIL 9

"A HEART FROM SIN SET FREE"

THE heart, in Scripture phraseology, stands for the entire inner man, thought, feeling and purpose. To believe with the heart, is to believe with the whole man. It involves the surrender of the thought, the feelings and

the will. A heart-faith is not a mere opinion; it is a conviction, that governs the inner man, and shapes the outward life. The issues of life are decided in the heart, and whether for weal or woe the decision is in the heart.

Then the people rejoiced . . . because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord.—1 CHRONICLES 29:9.

APRIL 10

LOVE MADE MANIFEST

THE manifestations of love, specifically and definitely mentioned in the Bible, are very numerous. As one goes over them he begins to see how love covers every duty to every class of men, and how true it is, as Paul says, that "love is the fulfillment of the law!"

Hereby know we love, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.—1 JOHN 3:16. R.V.

APRIL 11

HINDERING IDOLS

MANY professedly Christian men and women have idols in their hearts as truly as had the ancient Israelites. They do not recognise these things as idols, but there they are. Anything upon which we have set our heart, and would not give up for Christ's sake, is an idol, and hinders our approach to God.

We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.—1 CORINTHIANS 8:4.

APRIL 12

THE FRUIT OF THE TREE

FAITH is the root of which love is the fruit. To say that it is better to have love even without faith, than it is to have faith without love, is much like saying it is better to have a crop of apples without having roots to your apple trees, than it is to have roots without apples. Rootless trees do not bear fruit, and faithless lives do not bring forth love.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. . . . —GALATIANS 5:22.

APRIL 13

LOVING THE FATHER

THE one thing that Jesus desired the world to know about Him was, that He loved the Father. If the secret of His life were defined, it would be this: "I love the Father." If we wish to know what love to God means in its purity and its fullness, we have but to look at Jesus Christ.

But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father giveth Me commandment, even so I do.—JOHN 14:31.

APRIL 14

THE TEST ETERNAL

ARE you walking as Jesus walked? Are you living your life, day by day, in utter disregard of your own interests, your own reputation, your own authority, your own comfort, your own honour, doing the things that

will bring blessing to others, no matter what loss and dishonour the doing of them may bring to you? Are you? Then, you are abiding in Him.

He that saith he abideth in Him, ought himself also so to walk even as He walked.—1 JOHN 2:6.

APRIL 15

STOOPING TO CONQUER

IT is easy to perform the most menial services for those we love. A mother can perform the most humiliating service for the babe she loves. Yet what but transcending wondrous love, could have enabled the only Begotten of God, in the full consciousness of that fact, doing with His own hands menial service for His disciples?

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He came forth from God, and goeth unto God, riseth from supper, and layeth aside His garments; and He took a towel, and girded Himself. Then He poureth water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.—JOHN 13:3-5. R.V.

APRIL 16

JOINED TO JESUS

A BRANCH has no independent life of its own. Its sap and vigour all come from the vine. Its leaves, buds, blossoms, fruit are all the product of the life of the vine. So is it with the believer. He must continue in living union with Christ, and bear to Him the same relation that the living, healthy branch—the continuously fruit-bearing branch—does to the vine.

I am the vine, ye are the branches . . . without Me ye can do nothing.—JOHN 15:5.

APRIL 17

IN THE HOUR OF PERIL

NO man who has any true knowledge of himself will court temptation. He will flee from it, and pray God not to bring him into it. Many a man possessing seemingly great attainments in the spiritual life, has fallen because he lost the spirit of one of the most suggestive petitions of the wonderful prayer, which Jesus taught His disciples.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.—MARK 14:38. R.V.

APRIL 18

"AND IN THE GARDEN, SECRETLY"

JESUS prepared for the temptations He saw drawing near by prayer, so always came off victorious. The disciples, despite His warning, slept while He prayed; He stood, they fell. The calm majesty of His bearing amid the awful onslaughts of Pilate's judgment hall and of Calvary, was the outcome of the struggle, agony and victory of Gethsemane.

And when He was at the place, He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed.—LUKE 22:40,41.

APRIL 19

CALVARY'S CONQUEST

SATAN'S dominion received its death-blow at Calvary. The actual casting-out thus secured may be in the future, but the death of Christ secured it and it is

now assured. Potentially Satan is already cast out. He is an already conquered enemy: He may bother us still, but he has got to go.

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.—ROMANS 16:20.

APRIL 20

"JESUS LIVES! TO HIM THE THRONE!"

THE Crucifixion loses its meaning without the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection the death of Christ was only the heroic death of a noble martyr; with the Resurrection, it is the atoning death of the Son of God. It shows that death to be of sufficient value to cover all our sins, for it was the sacrifice of the Son of God. In it we have an all-sufficient ground for knowing that the blackest sin is atoned for. My sin may be as high as the highest mountain, but the sacrifice that covers it, is as high as the highest heaven.

It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.—ROMANS 8:34.

APRIL 21

THE SATISFYING SACRIFICE

BY the Resurrection, God declares that He has accepted and is satisfied with the settlement Christ has made. I am thus declared righteous in God's sight. If we are ever troubled with doubts as to whether God has accepted the offering Christ made, we have only to look at the empty tomb and the risen Lord.

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.—ROMANS 4:25.

APRIL 22

ONE IN HIM!

FORGIVENESS is negative, the putting away of sin. Justification is positive, the imputing of positive and perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ is so united to the believer that God reckons our sins to Him. The believer is so united to Christ, that God reckons His righteousness to us.

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.—ROMANS 3:22.

APRIL 23

CONSTANT COMPANIONSHIP

TO walk with God means to live one's life in the consciousness of God's presence and in conscious communion with Him; to have the thought constantly before us, "God is beside me," and to be every now and then speaking to Him, and what is still more, listening for Him to speak to us. In a word, to walk with God is to live in real, constant, conscious companionship with Him.

Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors.—PROVERBS 8:34.

APRIL 24

LOVE—HUMAN AND DIVINE

LOVE for another is a desire for, and delight in, his good. Love is not mere fondness for another nor pleasure in his society. The character of another may be

hateful to me, and his society disagreeable, but, still I may have a real desire for his welfare, which is love.

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?—1 JOHN 3:17.

APRIL 25

RADIATING GOODNESS

WE all know people whose joy is filled full; indeed, it is just running over, shining from their eyes, bubbling out of their very lips, running off their fingertips when they shake hands. Coming into contact with them, is like coming into contact with an electrical machine, charged with gladness. Now, people of that sort, are always people that spend much time in communion with God.

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone . . . and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him in mount Sinai.—EXODUS 34:30,32.

APRIL 26

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SUFFERING

IT is the misery that we make our own, that we can comfort; it is the want that we make our own, that we can fully satisfy; it is the sin we make our own, from which we can save another. Real power to help men is a very expensive thing, but anyone can have it, who is willing to pay the price.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.—2 CORINTHIANS 5:21.

APRIL 27

AN ETERNAL PRIESTHOOD

CHRIST'S ministry did not close with His death. His atoning work was finished, but when He rose and ascended to the right hand of the Father, He entered upon other work for mankind just as important, in its place, as His atoning work, from which it cannot be divorced; it rests upon that as its basis, and is necessary to our complete salvation.

But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth, to make intercession for them.—HEBREWS 7:24,25.

APRIL 28

THANKFUL PRAYING

IN approaching God to ask for new blessings, we should not neglect to return thanks for blessings already granted. Doubtless one reason why so many of our prayers lack power is because we have neglected to return thanks for blessings already received.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—PHILIPPIANS 4:6.

APRIL 29

UNPLUMBED DEPTHS

THE Word of God is unfathomable and inexhaustible. It is unfathomable, not because of the obscurity of its style, but because of the profundity of its teaching.

No other book is so simple as the Bible. Its style is so clear that a child can understand it; but its truth is so profound, that we explore the Book from childhood to old age, and can never say we have reached the bottom.

This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.—ISAIAH 28:29.

APRIL 30

COMFORT AND STRENGTH

LISTEN, sorrowing one: There is One who is far wiser and stronger, more loving, more able to guide and keep and help than the wisest and strongest companion you have ever known. And He is ready to come and dwell in your soul, and fill every nook and corner of your empty, aching heart, and banish all loneliness and sorrow forever.

If a man love Me he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.—JOHN 14:23.

MAY 1

LIVING POWER

TO receive Jesus is to believe what God tells us in His Word about Him, to believe that He rose from the dead; to believe that He now lives; to believe that He has power to keep us from falling; to believe that He has power to keep us from the drive of sin day by day and, then, to just trust Him to do it.

All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth . . . and, lo, I am with you alway.—MATTHEW 28:18,20.

MAY 2

HOLDING FAST

THOSE who endure temptation shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. The word translated "endure" means not merely to suffer, but to continue or persevere under—to stand fast. This is the proof of true love to Christ, that we stand true to Him under trial, even unto the end.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to them that love Him.—JAMES 1:12. R.V.

MAY 3

THE LAW OF THE LORD

DO you want blessedness in your heart, beauty in your character, fruitfulness in your service, and prosperity in everything you do? Then stop walking in the counsel of the ungodly, stop standing in the way of sinners, stop sitting in the seat of the scornful, and begin to delight in the law of the Lord, and meditate therein, day and night.

Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.—PSALM 119:165.

MAY 4

UNSLEEPING GUARD

GOD is never off guard, He never sleeps at His post. Satan can never catch one of God's children when their Watchman is sleeping. You and I are often off guard. Satan can often catch us napping, but he can

never catch our Watchman napping, and so we rest secure resting safely and sweetly in God's great love.

Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.—PSALM 121:4.

MAY 5

SEARCHING OUT SIN

SIN, selfishness, carnality and worldliness surround us as the very atmosphere we breathe, and are constantly creeping into our hearts and lives unawares. Each day should close by our going into God's presence, and laying our inmost lives and outward walk before Him, asking Him to search them through and through, and to lay bare to us whatever in them is hateful in His sight. This will be a painful, but a gloriously salutary process.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—PSALM 139:23, 24.

MAY 6

THE ERRING CHILD

WE must trust God and rejoice in His presence, just as a true child trusts his earthly father and rejoices in *his* presence. If we make a mistake at any point, even if we disobey God, we must go to Him and tell Him all about it as trustfully as a child, and know that He forgives us, and that we are restored at once to His full favour.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?—MATTHEW 7:11.

MAY 7

HATRED FOR EVIL

THERE are those who profess to love righteousness, but they do not seem to hate iniquity. They are strong in applauding right, but not equally strong in denouncing evil. There are also those who profess to hate sin, but they do not seem to love righteousness. They are strong in denouncing evil, but not equally strong in applauding right. Here, as always, Jesus' example stands immaculate. He stood *for* the right and *against* the wrong.

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.—HEBREWS 1:9.

MAY 8

". . . EVEN UNTO ME"

IF we will not listen to the poor when they cry unto us in their need, God will not listen unto us when we cry unto Him in our need. The world's maxim is, "The Lord helps those who help themselves." The truth is, the Lord helps those who help others.

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.—PROVERBS 21:13.

MAY 9

THE WORD OF LIFE AND POWER

IN the Bible is all the truth we need in dealing with men. The Word of God is the only instrument that God has appointed for the salvation of men, and the only

method He acknowledges, the only means He blesses, the the only instrument He honours is the Word. It is the Word that produces conviction of sin. It is the Word that regenerates. It is the Word that produces faith.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.—PSALM 19:7.

MAY 10

FORGIVING, WE ARE FORGIVEN

PRAYER is answered on the basis that our sins are forgiven, but God cannot deal with us on the basis of forgiveness while we are harbouring ill-will against those who have wronged us. Anyone who is harbouring a grudge against another has fast-closed the ear of God against his own cry.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.—MARK 11: 25, 26.

MAY 11

DAYS WITH GOD

IF we commune with God more and more, His beauty will illumine and reflect itself in our lives. Moses' very face shone because He had been with God. So will our lives shine with heavenly glow and glory if, we habitually walk and talk with God.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun . . . —MATTHEW 13:43.

MAY 12

THE THANKFUL HEART

THE early Christians gave themselves continually to praise and thanksgiving; these were among the most noticeable and notable characteristics of their lives. The same thing is true of the holy men and women of the Old Testament. I cannot think of one good man mentioned at all prominently in the Bible, of whom it is not definitely recorded, that he thanked God for some act of His goodness.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people.—ACTS 2:46,47.

MAY 13

UNHEARD PRAYERS

IT is vain to expect power in prayer unless we meditate much upon the words of Christ, and let them find a permanent abode in our hearts. There are many who wonder why they are so powerless in prayer, but the very simple explanation is found in their neglect of the words of Christ. They have not hidden His words in their hearts.

This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me. . . . —MATTHEW 15:8,9.

MAY 14

"WE THANK THEE, LORD . . ."

IT is remarkable how frequent are the references in the New Testament to thanksgiving for food. Over and over again, in the brief record of the life of Christ, at-

tention is drawn to His returning thanks for food—even when it consisted of five cheap barley loaves, and two small fishes.

. . . Which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.—1 TIMOTHY 4:3.

MAY 15

STEALING THE SEED

WHEREVER the word is preached Satan is present, either in person or through his agents, to snatch away the seed that is sown. It is needful that we pray God to guard the seed. It is also needful to hold fast to the truth we have heard, lest Satan snatch it away.

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the Word that was sown in their hearts.—MARK 4:15.

MAY 16

IN HIS NAME!

CHRIST is man's only way of approach to God. As there was no way of approach to God in the Old Testament except on the ground of the shed blood of the sacrifice, so there is no way of approach to the real holy of holies, except by the way of the rent veil of Christ's flesh and outpoured blood.

And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. —COLOSSIANS 3:17. R.V.

MAY 17

TRANSMUTING GRACE

JESUS completely transforms men. The man who was once a blasphemer, now prays. The man who once loved the vile book, now loves the Bible. The man who once told questionable stories, now sings hymns of praise. The men and women who once gave themselves over to sin and vice are now working to save their fellow-men.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17.

MAY 18

THE FUTILE TASK

THERE have been men who, in the past, talked just as boastingly of what they would do with the Bible in a few years, as do some to-day, and with far greater show of reason. But their confident boasts proved empty and futile, and as we recall them now, in the light of the established facts of subsequent history, they move us but to a pitying smile.

They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn.—JOB 24:24.

MAY 19

LOVE USPEAKABLE!

THE wonder of God's love! It would be no wonder if an unholy God could love unholy men; but that the God whose name is Holy, could love beings so utterly

sinful as we are, is the wonder of the eternities! There are many deep mysteries in the Bible, but none so profound as this.

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.—ROMANS 5:8.

MAY 20

POWER THAT IS GOD'S

COUNTLESS earnest-minded Christians are going astray at this point—they are trying to get hold of some divine power which they can use according to their will. I thank God, from the depth of my heart, that there is no divine power that I can get hold of to use according to my will. What could I do with a divine power? What evil I might work! But while I thank God that there is no divine power that I can get hold of and use according to my will, I am still more glad that there is a divine Person Who can get hold of *me*.

For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.—PHILIPPIANS 2:13.

MAY 21

CHOICE COMPANY

THE man who walks on earth with God, God will sooner or later take to be with Himself for ever. "If any man serve Me," says Christ, "let him follow Me; and where I am there shall also My servant be." If we do not walk with God on earth we are not likely to live with God in heaven. If we do not care to cultivate His company now, we may be sure that He will not take us to be in His company for ever.

And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.—GENESIS 5:24.

MAY 22

OUTLASTING ALL!

THERE was a time, (as both the Bible and science tell us) when the heavens and earth did not exist, and there will be a time when they will not continue to exist in their present form; but Christ's words are spiritual not material, unchanging not changing, eternal not temporal, and while endless ages roll they will still endure.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.—MATTHEW 24:35.

MAY 23

ASKING LARGELY

IF we only realised the fullness of God's grace that is ours for the asking—its height and depth and length and breadth—we would spend more time in prayer. The measure of our appropriation of grace, is determined by the measure of our prayers.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart.—1 KINGS 4:29.

MAY 24

GETTING CLOSE TO GOD

THE first thing to do, in the hour of prayer, is to dismiss from our minds, so far as possible, all thought of our surroundings and look to the Spirit to present God to our minds and make Him real to us. It is possible by the Holy Spirit's aid to have God so really present that it almost seems as if we could see and touch Him. In-

deed, we *do* see Him with spiritual eyes, and touch Him with the hand of faith. We apprehend Him by our spiritual faculties and He becomes more real than aught of mere time and sense.

And the Lord spake to Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.—EXODUS 33:11.

MAY 25

ON THE BRINK

THERE is never but a step between any man and death. Every step that each one of us takes, is but a move toward the grave. Every step we take is along the edge of the grave, and any moment the edge may crumble away. It takes but one little snip of the shears of fate to sever the cord of life.

But truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.—1 SAMUEL 20:3.

MAY 26

THE FOUNT OF WISDOM

IF you wish to be, not only abreast of the times, but ahead of the times, study the Bible. Jesus was ahead of His times because He studied so much of the Bible as then existed. Paul was ahead of his time for the same reason. Huss, and Wycliffe, and Luther, and John Knox, and Wesley, and Finney, and Moody were ahead of their time, simply because they sought and obtained wisdom from the Book of books.

Let my cry come near before Thee, O Lord: give me understanding according to Thy word.—PSALM 119:169.

MAY 27

THE ASCENDED LORD

THOUGH God is in a sense everywhere, there is a place where He peculiarly manifests Himself and His glory—a place where He can be said to dwell in a sense in which He dwells nowhere else. Jesus Christ is in that place—at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.—COLOSSIANS 3:1.

MAY 28

THE TOUCHSTONE OF THE SPIRIT

IT is not hard to have a certain sentiment of love for the unlovely, provided they have never crossed our path in any way; but to love the one who lies about you, as these did about Stephen; to love the one who does you harm, seeking, it may be, your very life, as they did the life of Stephen, that is the hard thing—that is the supreme test of whether the Lord Jesus be indeed dwelling in us, or no.

Who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not . . . who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.—1 PETER 2:23,24.

MAY 29

MEN OF PRAYER

THE mighty men of prayer in the Bible, and the mighty men of prayer throughout all ages of the Church's history have been men who were much given

to thanksgiving and praise. David was a mighty man of prayer, and how his Psalms abound with thanksgiving and praise! The apostles were mighty men of prayer; of them we read that "they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." Paul was a mighty man of prayer, and how often in his Epistles he bursts out in definite thanksgiving to God, for definite blessings and definite answers to prayer!

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer.—ACTS 6:4.

MAY 30

THROUGH CHRIST TO GOD

IN the overwhelming majority of instances, in the New Testament, to say nothing of the Old, the offering of thanks is to God the Father. It is through Jesus Christ. The reason for this seems to be that God the Father is the original source of all our blessings. Even Jesus is His gift. While all the Father's love is manifested to us in Christ, still it is the Father's love. We need to recognise the Father, back of Christ, as the source of all.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.—EPHESIANS 1:3.

MAY 31

TO BE HEARD OF MEN

MUCH so-called prayer is not to God. There is very little thought of God in it. We think of our audience; we think, it may be, of our need; but there is not a clear, deep sense that we have come into the

presence of the all holy, almighty, all-loving One, and that we are laying hold upon Him for help. This is one of the most frequent causes of failure in prayer—we do not really pray to God.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.—Acts 12:5.

JUNE 1

THE BAPTISM OF POWER

THE supreme condition of power in the Apostolic Church was the definite baptism with the Holy Ghost. The supreme condition of success in soul-winning is the same to-day. This baptism with the Holy Spirit is for every child of God, and the one who would be largely used of Him in personal work, must get it, at any cost.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.—Acts 1:8.

JUNE 2

WORDS OF TRUTH

TO a superficial student the doctrine of verbal inspiration may appear questionable or even absurd, but any regenerated and Spirit-taught man who ponders the words of the Scripture, day after day, and year after year, will become convinced that the wisdom of God is in the very words, as well as in the thought of Holy Scripture.

And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.—Revelation 21:5.

JUNE 3

PERFECT KNOWLEDGE

HOW the astronomers have laboured during the last twenty-five years, making the astronomy of earlier generations look like child's play! How the bacteriologists of the last ten years have improved their apparatus, until the most advanced bacteriology of a few years ago looks like kindergarten work! But God knew it all an eternity ago, and knows infinitely more than these men have discovered, even to this day. Our great God, Jehovah, is perfect in knowledge.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!—ROMANS 11:33.

JUNE 4

FROM PRISON TO PARADISE

DOUBTLESS some of the most acceptable and effective prayers God has ever heard, have ascended to Him from prison-cells. Prayer transforms a prison-cell into a portal of heaven.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.—ACTS 16:25.

JUNE 5

THE MASQUERADER

THE devil is never more dangerous than when he gets into a pulpit, or a theological chair, and pretends to teach Christianity, when, in reality, he is corrupting it; pretends to be teaching Christian evidences when, in reality, he is undermining the very foundations of faith;

pretends to be teaching Biblical introduction, when in reality he is making the Bible out to be a book that is not worthy of being introduced. Look out for him at such times: he is at his most dangerous work.

For some are already turned aside after Satan.—1 TIMOTHY 5:15.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.—2 CORINTHIANS 11:14.

JUNE 6

THE CROWNING GLORY

IF you are ever tempted to think any promise of the Word so large that you must discount it, remember that Christ is risen, and that, in that fact, you have a proof and illustration of God's almighty power.

. . . The exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead. . . . —EPHESIANS 1:19.

JUNE 7

THE CHRIST WHO PRAYED

THE words "prayer" and "pray" are used at least twenty-five times in connection with Jesus, and there are many instances in which the fact of His praying is implied, where the actual words do not occur. The life of Christ had many marked characteristics, but nothing is more marked than His prayerfulness. Virtually, it was a life made up of two elements—work and prayer.

Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared.—HEBREWS 5:7.

JUNE 8

SEPARATING SIN

GOD is holy and we are sinners. Sin, like a deep and impassable chasm, stands between us and Him. There can be no walk with Him, until sin is put away.

If iniquity be in thine hand, put it away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.—JOB 11:14.

JUNE 9

THE SAVIOUR'S QUEST

THE great object of Christ's earthly mission was to save the lost. Lost men were of more value and preciousness in His sight than all earth's wealth and glory. The whole material universe had not the value in His sight of a single soul. Each soul had this value in His sight; not only the soul of the philosopher and the saint, but the soul of the savage and of the outcast.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—LUKE 19:10.

JUNE 10

ONE THING SURE!

IT is not absolutely sure that there will ever be another summer, or another election, or another Christmas, but it *is* sure that there will be a judgment day. It is absolutely sure that you and I will stand before the judgment seat of Christ; absolutely sure that each one of us will give account of himself before God.

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ . . . so then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.—ROMANS 14:10,12.

EVANGELICAL
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

JUNE 11

THE CLEANSING BLOOD

IN the Old Testament, the blood of the temple sacrifice cleansed the Israelites from the *guilt* of ceremonial offences, and set them apart for God; in the New Testament, the blood of Calvary's sacrifice cleanses the believer from the *guilt* of moral offences, and sets him apart for God.

The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.—1 JOHN 1:7.

JUNE 12

THE COMPASSIONATE CHRIST

WHENEVER Jesus saw a crowd of men, He was moved with compassion. His compassion on the multitude is mentioned five times. He saw, as we should see, that a crowd of men is a pitiful sight. It represents so much of sorrow, so much of pain, so much of sin. What is your feeling when you look out on a crowd? Are you mildly curious, or does your heart yearn for their peace?

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick.—MATTHEW 14:14.

JUNE 13

THE INFIRMITIES OF THE WEAK

NOT only for the strong, enlightened, mature Christian did Jesus suffer, but for the weakest member of the household of faith as well. If we would bear this in mind we would be more patient with, and considerate

toward, the weak Christian who does not come on as rapidly as we wish. He is a weak brother, it is true, but he is one for whom salvation is provided.

And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?—1 CORINTHIANS 8:11.

JUNE 14

D. V. (GOD WILLING!)

THERE is no thwarting the purpose of God, and there is no subverting His Word. What God promises and what God threatens are both as absolutely sure to be done as if they were already accomplished. We form our plans and marshal our resources, and sometimes they seem very great; indeed they seem invincible and irresistible, but, if God plans otherwise, all our wisest schemes and all our most determined and most potent efforts come to naught.

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater. . . . But God said, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.—LUKE 12:18,20.

JUNE 15

DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT

WHEN we come into God's presence we should recognise our infirmity, our ignorance of what we should pray for, and in the consciousness of our utter inability to pray aright, look to the Holy Spirit, and cast ourselves utterly upon Him, to direct our prayers, to lead out our desires and guide our utterance of them.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.—EPHESIANS 6:18.

JUNE 16

CHANGELESS BUT REPENTING

IF God remains the same, if His attitude toward sin and righteousness are unchanging, then must His dealings with men change as they turn from sin to repentance. His *character* remains ever the same; but His *dealings* with men change, as they change from a position that is hateful to His unchangeable hatred of sin, to one that is pleasing to his unchangeable love of righteousness.

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not.—JONAH 3:10.

JUNE 17

THE GENTLE SPIRIT

MEEKNESS is that attitude of mind that is opposed to harshness and contentiousness, and that shows itself in gentleness and tenderness in dealing with others. The thought of "meekness," in the Bible usage of the word, is of gentleness in dealing with and correcting the errors of others.

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.—TITUS 3:2.

JUNE 18

WORSHIPPING THE FATHER

GOD desires obedience of men, He desires service, He desires prayer, He desires praise and thanksgiving. But His supreme desire from men is worship. He is *seeking* worshippers. It has been said that "we

are saved that we may serve." This is true, but still more profoundly true is it, that we are saved that we may worship. The whole work of redemption finds its culmination in a body of men and women, being found and fitted to worship God.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be His worshippers.—JOHN 4:23. R.V.

JUNE 19

THE OUTSIDE OF THE CUP

MORALITY is an attractive thing, but it is an external thing. Nicodemus had morality, but he needed something more, something deeper, something that underlies a true and abiding morality.

I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.—MATTHEW 5:20.

JUNE 20

CONFIDING IN GOD

IF we distrust our own judgment and have absolute confidence in God's and His willingness to guide us; if we are absolutely surrendered to His will, whatever it may be, and willing to let God choose His way; if we will go on, step by step, as He guides, daily studying His Word to know His will, and listening for the still small voice of the Spirit—if we do all this, He will guide us with His counsel to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, and afterward receive us to glory.

For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.—PROVERBS 3:26.

JUNE 21

LOOKING UPWARD

JESUS CHRIST prayed with open, upturned eyes. We do well to close our eyes that we may shut the world out; but there *are* times when it is well to look right up with open eyes, as Jesus did, into the face of God.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee.—JOHN 17:1.

JUNE 22

JESUS ONLY!

ONE of the commonest causes of failure in Christian life is found in the attempt to follow some good man, whom we greatly admire. No man and no woman, no matter how good, can be safely followed. There never has been but one absolutely perfect Man upon this earth—the Man Christ Jesus. If we try to follow any other man we are more sure to imitate his faults than his excellencies. Look to Jesus only, as your Guide.

He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself so to walk even as He walked.—1 JOHN 2:6.

JUNE 23

PRAYER'S DEMANDS

THE time-element in prayer, is of vast importance. By the use of modern machinery a man can do more in a minute than he could once do in hours. No machinery has ever been invented by which the work of prayer can be expedited.

And it came to pass in those days, that He . . . continued all night in prayer to God.—LUKE 6:12.

JUNE 24

THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

RETURNING thanks for blessings received, increases our faith and enables us to approach God with new boldness and assurance. As one meditates upon the answers to prayer already granted, faith waxes bolder, and we come to feel in the very depths of our souls that there is nothing too hard for the Lord.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—EPHESIANS 5:20.

JUNE 25

"'THESE,' SAITH HE, 'ARE MINE'"

JESUS CHRIST prayed in behalf of all His own. Christ's own—those given to Him by the Father—are the objects of His prayer in a sense no others are. It is for them He now intercedes as high priest and advocate.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word.—JOHN 17:9,20.

JUNE 26

SELF-GIVEN

JESUS CHRIST in His moral limitations was self-limited. He voluntarily placed himself underneath the essential moral limitations that man is under in order to redeem man. No coercion could be applied to Jesus. There was none having power to make Him do aught

He chose not to do. So of His own will, He laid down His life: of His own will, He took it again.

But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.—PHILIPPIANS 2:7,8.

JUNE 27

WITHOUT A PEER

THERE is really but one weighty objection to the doctrine that Christ arose from the dead—i.e., "That there is no conclusive evidence that any other ever arose." To this a sufficient answer would be: Even if it were certain that no other ever arose, the life of Jesus was unique, His nature was unique, His mission was unique, His history was unique, and it is not to be wondered at, but to be expected, that the issue of His life should be unique also. And Jesus was unique because He was God manifest in the flesh.

I am God and there is none else: I am God, and there is none like Me.—ISAIAH 46:9.

JUNE 28

THE GREAT DESIRE

GOD'S will is the most desirable thing in the universe to the true child of God. He wishes it done in himself, but not only in himself, but everywhere, in every person and everything. No other prayer rings out quite so heartily from the Christian's soul as—"Thy will be done."

. . . Thy will be done as in heaven, so on earth.—MATTHEW 6:10. R.V.

JUNE 29

THE ENEMY OF EYES

SATAN blinds the minds of the unbelieving that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, may not dawn upon them. It is the work of the Evil One to blind the minds of men—especially unbelievers—so that they cannot see the glory that is in Jesus. The awful, almost incredible blindness of men, who are intelligent on other subjects, to the simplest and plainest truth about Christ, is due to this blinding work of Satan.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them.—2 CORINTHIANS 4:4. R.V.

JUNE 30

THREEFOLD ASSURANCE

WE have, a threefold ground of assurance—the testimony of God in the written Word, the testimony of the life itself, the testimony of the Spirit. The testimony of the Word alone is sufficient. But we get, also, the testimony of the life and, to crown all, the testimony of the Spirit. With this threefold ground of assurance, it is no presumption to say: "I know I am a child of God. I *know* I have eternal life."

The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.—ROMANS 8:16. R.V.

JULY 1

THE UNFAILING WORD

FOR eighteen centuries men have tested the words of Christ from the cradle to the grave, and the words of Christ have stood the test. They have stood millions upon millions of tests and there is not one single case of failure. What may we say, then, without the shadow of the shade of a doubt? That not one word of Christ shall ever fail.

Nevertheless My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer My faithfulness to fail.—PSALM 89:33.

JULY 2

CRYING ALOUD

WE have need to cry aloud to God, when those increase who trouble us and many rise up against us; when this takes place, we should not despair, but cry to God. Then we can lie down without fear to sleep. We need not fear though tens of thousands of people set themselves against us round about.

And the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and He was entreated of them; because they put their trust in Him.—1 CHRONICLES 5:20.

JULY 3

LIMITED WISDOM

THE whole evangelical Church recognises the utter insufficiency of man's righteousness, theoretically at least. Now it needs to be taught, and made to feel, the

utter insufficiency of man's wisdom. That is perhaps the lesson that this twentieth century of overweening intellectual conceit needs most of any.

Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.—1 CORINTHIANS 2:11.

JULY 4

TAUGHT OF THE SPIRIT

NO amount of mere human teaching, no matter who our teachers may be, will give us a correct apprehension of the truth. We must be taught of the Holy Spirit. And we may be thus taught—each of us. He who is thus taught, will understand the truth of God better, (even if he does not know a word of Greek or Hebrew) than the man who knows Greek and Hebrew, and is not taught of the Spirit.

Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He shall guide you into all the truth.—JOHN 16:13. R.V.

JULY 5

THRICE-PLEDGED

THE righteousness, mercy and faithfulness of God run along nearly parallel lines, and they are all pledged to the deliverance, defence and complete salvation of His people.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications; in Thy faithfulness answer me, and in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant: for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.—PSALM 143:1,2.

JULY 6

THE APPROACH TO GOD

CHRIST has access to God, and we only in His name and through Him. God receives no offering of thanks from men except that offered in Christ's name. The man who has been the vilest sinner can offer up thanks to God, in Jesus' name, that are sweetest incense unto Him; the man whose life has been most exemplary can offer no acceptable thanks except in the same name and way. There is but one way of approach to God.

No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.—JOHN 14:6.

JULY 7

THE VOICE OF THE FATHER

THE holiness of Jesus Christ manifested itself in deed and word; negatively, in His never doing sin or speaking falsehood; positively, in His always doing what was pleasing to God and always speaking the things which pleased God.

For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.—JOHN 12:49.

JULY 8

"PECULIAR CARE"

THE Church is loved by Christ in a particular sense and a peculiar way. While a philanthropist may love all mankind and yet, if he be a true man, will, in a peculiar way, love his own wife as he loves no other woman, so Christ has a peculiar love for the Church, His bride.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.—EPHESIANS 5:25.

JULY 9

PROVISIONAL PROMISES

MANY are saying, "The promises of God are not true. God does not hear my prayers." Has God ever promised to hear *your* prayers? God very plainly describes the class whose prayers He hears. Do you belong to that class? Are you listening to His words? **If not, He has distinctly said He will not listen to yours.**

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded. . . . Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me.—PROVERBS 1:24,25,28.

JULY 10

SAVED BY HIS LIFE

MAKE your prayer, daily, to the risen Christ, through whose death on the Cross you have found pardon and justification, asking Him to come and dwell in you, and live His life out through you, and have His perfect will in you. Do this, and you will know what it is to be saved by Christ's life.

As Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.—ROMANS 6:4.

JULY 11

VESSELS OF THE LORD

WE live in a solemn world, and we need to be very careful. We need to be ready for God to use us any moment, and to respond to His call. The Holy Spirit alone convinces men of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; but He does it through us.

. . . A vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work.—2 TIMOTHY 2:21.

JULY 12

ALONE WITH GOD

THERE is doubtless a sense in which we can find a solitary place in our crowded streets, but it is well to follow Christ's example literally, and get alone with God. If you have never known what it is to kneel down in the woods where no human voice could be heard, or beneath a tree in the silent starlight, and look up with open eyes toward the face of God, you have missed a blessing that cannot be described, but that every child of God should know.

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.—MARK 1:35.

JULY 13

THE TEMPLE OF THE SPIRIT

THE Holy Spirit was sent by the Father into this world to be to the disciples of our Lord, in this present dispensation, after our Lord's departure and until His return, just what Jesus Christ had been to His disciples during the days of His personal companionship with them on earth. Is He that to you? Do you know the communion, the companionship, the partnership, the fellowship and the comradeship of the Holy Spirit?

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price?—1 CORINTHIANS 6:19,20.

JULY 14

THE WONDERS OF THE WORD

THE Word of God is the only instrument that God has appointed for the salvation of men, and the only instrument He honours is the Word. It is the Word that produces conviction of sin. It is the Word that regenerates. It is the Word that produces faith. It is the Word that saves.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?—ACTS 2:37.

JULY 15

SONS OF GOD

ADOPTION originates in the sovereign, unmerited grace of God. Not because of any merit in us, but because of His own loving, gracious choice, He foreordained us to adoption as sons. He did not foreordain us to adoption as sons because we were fit for it; but, having done so, He makes us fit for the place to which He graciously foreordained us.

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.—GALATIANS 4:5.

JULY 16

ONLY FOR HIS OWN

THE promises of the New Testament cannot be applied indiscriminately to all men. A great mistake is made by taking promises made to the believer and applying them as if they referred to all. When we find

promises with "we" and "ye" in them, we should study the context and find out who the "we's" and "ye's" are, and whether we belong to that class.

The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous.—PROVERBS 15:29.

JULY 17

BELIEVING PRAYER

GOD is willing and anxious to answer prayer. But He demands, as a condition of answering, that we believe His naked promise—believe the prayer is heard —believe that the thing asked, is ours.

Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—MARK 11:24. R.V.

JULY 18

WHERE HE LEADS

THERE is many a man and many a woman determined to be a foreign missionary, whom God, in reality, has called to a very quiet life in the land of their birth. While they are willing to endure the severest hardships in the foreign field, they are not willing to plod on quietly and unnoticed at home. But the determining factor is to do God's will, no matter what it may involve—a quiet life at home, or a life of courage and self-sacrifice in the foreign field.

And there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.—1 SAMUEL 25:13.

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God.—PSALM 143:10.

JULY 19

THE LIFE OF THE LORD

IF you would learn to love let Christ in, to live His life in your heart. Renounce self, renounce the flesh, crucify it, put it in the place of the curse and let Christ live His life in you.

The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.—GALATIANS 2:20.

JULY 20

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

THE highest form of mastery in this world is self-mastery. This is the complete life, a life manifesting love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindliness, goodness, faith, meekness. These things are "the *fruit* of the Spirit," not the *fruits* of the Spirit; they are the many delicious flavours of the one fruit. Wherever the Holy Spirit is given control, not some, but all of these will be seen to flourish.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—PROVERBS 16:32.

JULY 21

THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

NOT only does the blood of Christ relieve the conscience of the believer from the burden of guilt, but also from the burden of his self-efforts to atone for sin and please God. Sin is entirely settled by the perfect sacrifice, and now the believer, with a conscience free

from guilt, and also from the burden of his own imperfect works, enters into the service of the living God in the liberty and power of sonship.

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?—HEBREWS 9:14.

JULY 22

CLOSELY GUARDED

THE eye is the most wonderfully protected portion of the body, and the "apple" or pupil of the eye, is the most important part of the eye, and is especially provided for, and protected. The mechanism of the eye and God's provision for its welfare, has always awakened the wonder and admiration of men of science. It is shielded and guarded in every conceivable way, and in like manner God guards His people with every conceivable and inconceivable safeguard against spiritual injury and disaster.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of His eye.—DEUTERONOMY 32:10.

JULY 23

THE BREATH OF THE SOUL

A CHRISTIAN should breathe an atmosphere of prayer. Faith in God has always an upward look. True trust in God is constantly crystallizing into definite, unceasing prayer.

The breath of the Almighty hath given me life.—JOB 33:4.

JULY 24

THE CHALLENGE OF GOD

THE last few years have been years of special pleading for definite revival in foreign fields, and from every corner of the earth tidings have come of how amazingly God is answering. But the great things that God is beginning to do are small, indeed, in comparison with what He will do, if there is more prayer.

Prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.—MALACHI 3:10.

JULY 25

"THOU GOD SEEST ME!"

NOTHING else is so cleansing as the consciousness of God's presence. Things that we have long tolerated become intolerable when we bring them into the white light of the presence of the Holy One. How many things we do in the darkness of the night, yea, even in the broad light of day, that we could not for a moment think of doing if we realised God was right there by our side—*looking*. God is always present, whether we realise it or not; if we cultivate the consciousness of His presence, our lives and hearts will speedily whiten, until they become as the very snow.

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord . . . ?—1 THESSALONIANS 2:19.

JULY 26

HOLDING ON!

FAITH in Jesus is manifested by our holding on to Jesus for the desired blessing in the face of discouragement, even in the face of His apparent refusal to bestow it.

Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.—MATTHEW 15:25-28.

JULY 27

THE LORD'S ANOINTED

LORD means divine Master, and Christ means anointed King. To receive Jesus is to take Him as our Divine Master, to whom we yield the absolute confidence of our intellects, whose word we believe, and to whom, as our King, we gladly give the fullest allegiance to our life's end.

Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.—ACTS 2:36.

JULY 28

THE TRAGEDY OF THE AGES

MODERN physiologists tell us that Jesus suffered from extravasation of the blood, or, in popular language, " a broken heart," and that other facts recorded (as *e.g.*, the dying cry) prove the same thing. But John

knew nothing of modern physiology. Why, then, does he insert a detail in his Gospel that requires centuries of scientific progress to explain? Because he is recording events as they occurred, and as he saw them on Calvary's hill.

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.—JOHN 19:34.

JULY 29

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

SOME Christians never backslide because they are too busy about their Master's business to backslide. Many professed Christians do backslide, because they are too unoccupied to do anything *but* backslide. For idle hands, Satan always finds unholy commissions.

Through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.—ECCLESIASTES 10:18.

JULY 30

TRUTH INCARNATE

THE truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man, any scientist, any philosopher, any literary scholar, any council of theologians, any congress of philosophers and savants. If the Bible says one thing, and any body of men, or any company of men say another, the truly wise man will say: "This Book is the word of Him who cannot lie."

The law of the Lord is perfect. . . . the testimony of the Lord is sure.—PSALM 19:7.

JULY 31

HIS—AND OURS!

THE same Spirit by which Jesus was begotten, is at our disposal for us to be begotten of Him. The same Spirit by which Jesus Christ offered Himself without spot to God, is at our disposal for us to offer ourselves without spot, the same Spirit by which Jesus was anointed for service, is at our disposal for us to be anointed for service, and so on through every phase of Christian experience.

But we have the mind of Christ.—1 CORINTHIANS 2:16.

AUGUST 1

REJOICING IN THE SPIRIT

THE Holy Spirit, alone, can lead to acceptable thanks —thanks that God the Spirit inspires, that are offered through God the Son, that God the Father accepts. No strange fire must be brought before God. We should cast ourselves upon the Holy Spirit, to teach us to rejoice aright.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.--EPHESIANS 5:18,19.

AUGUST 2

HOPE ETERNAL

BETTER be without anything else than be without hope. We may be in great present distress, but if we have a good and sure hope for the future, it matters little. We may have present prosperity, but if we

have no hope for the future it is of little worth. I would rather be the poorest man who walks the streets and have a good hope for the future, than to be the richest millionaire and have none. Spiritually, all hope is centred in Christ, who is centred in God.

Christ in you the hope of glory: whom we preach warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.—COLOSSIANS 1:27,28.

AUGUST 3

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

THE Bible representations of God and Jesus stand not only apart from all the literature or fragments of literature of ancient days, but from the literature of *all* days, even from the literature of this day of supposedly unexampled enlightenment, except in so far as it has borrowed its views from the old Book.

Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read.—ISAIAH 34:16.

And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.—REVELATION 19:16.

AUGUST 4

THE PROMISE OF A KINGDOM

GOD hath promised, Christ hath appointed, and it is the Father's good pleasure to give a great and wonderful inheritance unto them that love God and continue with Christ in His temptations. We can give *nothing* to Him without receiving an abundantly increased reward.

Ye are they which have continued with Me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me.—LUKE 22:28,29.

AUGUST 5

THE LIVING HOPE

THE resurrection of Jesus Christ is the truth which, made living in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, results in the new birth unto a living hope, and an incorruptible inheritance. Through our believing in a risen and living Christ, Christ begins to live in us. The resurrection of Christ also forms a firm foundation of fact, upon which to build our hope for the future.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.—1 PETER 1:3,4. R.V.

AUGUST 6

EASILY GRIEVED

THE Holy Spirit is not a mere blind, impersonal influence or power that comes to dwell in your heart and mine. He is a Person, who loves us, a Person who is holy and intensely sensitive against sin, a Person who recoils from sin in what we would call its slightest forms as the holiest woman on earth never recoiled from sin in its grossest form.

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.—EPHESIANS 4:30.

AUGUST 7

THE GLORIOUS CHANGE

WHEN Jesus comes again, He will raise the dead with His voice, and we shall be caught up, with them, to meet Him in the air. He will transform us into

His own perfect likeness. This old, weak, pain-racked body will be changed into the likeness of His own glorious body, free from every pang and weakness, and limitation, resplendent with a beauty never seen on earth, and capable of unlimited activity.

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.—1 CORINTHIANS 15:43.

AUGUST 8

CHASTENING, YET CONSTANT

OVER and over again Israel departed from God and He chastened them sorely, but He did not forsake them. Israel as a nation is still departing from Jehovah, and frightfully they have been chastened and scourged during the awful centuries since they crucified their Lord and Christ; but God has never forsaken them.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous, therefore, and repent.—REVELATION 3:19.

AUGUST 9

FALSE LIGHTS

THE man who throws the Bible overboard and turns to any other source of light and guidance, always loses out in the long run. He always has, for eighteen centuries, and he always will, during all the centuries that are to come.

How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes worketh for falsehood.—JEREMIAH 8:8. (Marg.)

AUGUST 10

BOLDNESS OF UTTERANCE

NOT only open doors are needed, but open mouths. Ministers of the Word greatly need boldness in this time-serving and compromising age, and God's children should be in constant prayer that have this needed boldness. There are plenty to-day to criticise the timidity of preachers of the Word; how many are there who are in constant and earnest prayer that they may be given utterance, to make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel?

"That utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.—EPHESIANS 6:19,20. R.V.

AUGUST 11

DEPTH AND HEIGHT

OH, the power of prayer to dip down, down, down, to where hope itself seems vain, and lift men and women up, up, up, into fellowship with, and likeness to God!

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock.—PSALM 40:2.

AUGUST 12

THE GREAT EXAMPLE

PEOPLE wonder what Jesus would do in this relation or that, but the Bible tells us plainly what He actually did do—He spent much time in prayer. He would rise a great while before day and go out into the moun-

tain to pray alone. He spent whole nights in prayer. If we are to walk as Jesus walked we must lead a life of prayerfulness. The man who is not leading a life of prayer, no matter how many excellent things he may be doing, is not following his Lord.

Pray without ceasing . . . for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.—1 THESSALONIANS 5:17,18.

AUGUST 13

BEFORE THE THRONE

I KNOW of nothing that so impresses me with a sense of the importance of praying at all seasons, and of being much and constantly in prayer, as the thought that prayer is the principal occupation of my risen Lord. Most certainly, no Christian believer can be better employed than in emulating his Lord, who prays ever, before the throne.

Who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.—ROMANS 8:34.

AUGUST 14

RICH REWARDS

EIGHT immeasurably precious results come from walking with the Master: abounding joy, abiding peace, spiritual enlightenment, purity of heart and life, beauty of character, eminent usefulness, pleasing God, God's eternal companionship.

After that He appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. . . . And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them.—MARK 16:12,20.

AUGUST 15

JUST FOR TODAY!

A VERY large share of our perplexity about the will of God arises from the fact that we are troubled because God has not shown us what He wants us to do next year, or, it may be, next month. All we need is God's guidance for to-day. Follow on, step by step, as He leads you, and the way will open as you go.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.—PSALM 37:23.

AUGUST 16

THE ONE THING NEEDFUL

NO amount of observation of the externalities of true religion—Bible-reading, prayer, churchgoing, observation of the ordinances—will save. No man can see or enter the kingdom of heaven, no matter how religious, except he be born again.

Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.—JOHN 3:5.

AUGUST 17

SHUT IN WITH GOD

SHUT in alone with God, the world shut out! There is a temptation when prayer is offered in presence of others to think of what observers are thinking of us. The especial form of this danger which Christ guards against is that of ostentatious piety, hypocrisy, praying with a multitude of words which are nothing more than

lip service; engaging in prayer simply to be seen of men. Every one should have a secret place to meet God, a place in which he is absolutely alone with God.

. . . Enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret shall recompense thee.—MATTHEW 6:6. R.V.

AUGUST 18

THE LAST RESORT

PRAYER often avails where everything else fails. How utterly all Monica's efforts and entreaties failed with her son! But her prayers prevailed with God, and the dissolute youth became St. Augustine, the mighty man of the Most High.

. . . For I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake.—GENESIS 30:27.

AUGUST 19

SONSHIP IN THE SPIRIT

NOT merely does the Holy Spirit give us power to live a holy life, but He takes us, as it were, by the hand and leads us into that life. Our whole part is simply to surrender ourselves utterly to Him to lead and mould us. Those who do this are not merely God's offspring (which all men are), they are *sons* of God.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.—ROMANS 8:14.

AUGUST 20

RAISED OF GOD

IT was not so much that Jesus Christ arose, as that God raised Him. It was God who put forth the might; it was God who loosed the pains of death. He was raised by an act of power from without, and not by the fullness of life within. He laid down His life to the fullest extent, He was in the fullest sense dead, and it took the strength of God's might to raise Him again.

And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.—EPHESIANS 1:19, 20.

AUGUST 21

THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BELOVED

JOHN wrote his first Epistle to those who believe on the name of the Son of God, for the express purpose that they may know that they have eternal life. Anyone who believes on the name of the Son of God may know that he has eternal life. To deny the possibility of the believer's knowing that he has eternal life, is to say that the First Epistle of John was written in vain, and is to insult the Holy Spirit, who is its real author.

These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.—1 JOHN 5:13. R.V.

AUGUST 22

EVERY WHIT WHOLE

IF a man is to be used of God, his life must be clean—not only his outward life as the world sees it, but his inward secret life as it is known only to God and himself. One who holds on to any sin of act, or thought, or affection, cannot expect to have power *with* a holy God, and consequently cannot expect to have power *for* God.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use.—2 TIMOTHY 2:21.

AUGUST 23

NOW—AND AFTERWARD

I MEET God face to face *now*. Though I do not see Him, yet I have real, intimate, personal communion with Him; but when my earthly pilgrimage and warfare are over, I shall meet Him and *see* Him in heaven in a sense and in a fullness that I do not meet Him and see Him now.

For now we see through a glass, darkly: but then face to face. —1 CORINTHIANS 13:12.

AUGUST 24

LIVING UNION

THE only living or doing or accomplishing in the Christian life, that is acceptable to God, is through union with the risen Christ. Through union with the *crucified* Christ we get our pardon, our cleansing from

guilt, our justification, our perfect standing before God. Through union with the *risen* Christ, we get power for life and fruit.

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ; that ye should be joined to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit unto God.—ROMANS 7:4. R.V.

AUGUST 25

EARTHEN VESSELS

AS far as we are told in the Bible, the Holy Spirit has no way of getting at the unsaved except through the channel of those who are already saved; He comes to the believer and through the believer convinces the unsaved of sin. What a solemn thought! If we realised that the Holy Spirit could only reach the unbeliever through us, who are already saved, would we not be more careful to present an unchoked channel through which the Spirit of God could work?

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.—PHILIPPIANS 2:13.

AUGUST 26

"AS A TREE FALLS——"

THEORIES of future probation are speculations, having absolutely no foundation in fact and contrary to the plain teaching of the Book that never lies.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.—MATTHEW 25:46.

AUGUST 27

RISKING ALL!

THERE have been times in my life when I have risked everything that men hold dear, for time and eternity, upon there being a God who answered prayer, on the conditions laid down in the Bible. I have staked my health and that of my family, my temporal needs, my reputation, on God's answering prayer, according to these conditions, and I have won.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve. . . . Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.—ACTS 27:23,25.

AUGUST 28

THE ROYAL SUMMONS

PRAYER is an audience with the King. How strange it is that Christians should ask the question, "How much time ought I to spend in prayer?" When a subject is summoned to an audience with his king, he never asks, "How much time must I spend with the king?" His question is rather, "How much time will the king give me?" And with any true child of God the question will never be, "How much time *must* I spend," but "How much time *may* I spend in communion with my King."

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God: for unto Thee will I pray.—PSALM 5:2.

AUGUST 29

WHEN DAY IS DONE

CLOSE the day with thanksgiving and prayer. Review all the blessings of the day and thank God in detail for them. Nothing goes farther to increase faith in God and in His Word than a calm review, at the close of each day, of what God has done for you during its passing hours.

Now the hand of the Lord was upon me in the evening . . . and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.—EZEKIEL 33:22.

AUGUST 30

HIS PERFECT LIKENESS

COMPLETED salvation includes not merely the salvation of the the soul; it includes the salvation of the body, that we shall possess when the wondrous promises about our being transformed into the perfect likeness of Jesus Christ, not only spiritually, but physically, have their fulfilment; and unto that salvation, God keeps us.

When He shall appear we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.—1 JOHN 3:2.

AUGUST 31

THE BEGINNINGS OF GRACE

THE work of salvation begins when men are brought to realise that they are sinners and, therefore, need a Saviour; then they are ready, without much urging, to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour, when He is presented

to them, as just the all-sufficient Saviour they so sorely need. He should always be so presented by His servants.

I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him. . . . He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness.—MICAH 7:9.

SEPTEMBER 1

TRUSTING WHOLLY

GOD demands that we shall believe His Word absolutely. To question it, is to make Him a liar. Many do this when they plead His promises, and it is no wonder that their prayers are not answered.

But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. —JAMES 1:6,7. R.V.

SEPTEMBER 2

THE SECRET OF POWER

MANY mighty men of God have learned this secret —that when work has crowded more than usual, they have set an unusual amount of time apart for prayer. Other men of God, once mighty, have lost their power because they did not learn this secret, and if they did, neglected to practice it. Nothing should be allowed to stand between a man and his prayer-time.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went to his house . . . and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.—DANIEL 6:10.

SEPTEMBER 3

THE PROCESS OF RE-CREATION

THE Spirit of God is the one who achieves the new birth and the Word of God is the instrument through which He does it. We preach it to men, God quickens it by the power of His Spirit as we preach it, it takes root in the human heart, and the result is the new nature.

Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.—JAMES 1:18.

SEPTEMBER 4

CLAIMED AND VERIFIED

JESUS claimed to be Divine. But a claim to be Divine does not prove one to be Divine. Men rightly demand that such a claim be verified, and I do not believe that Jesus Christ is Divine simply because He claimed to be, but because of the way in which He substantiated the claim.

Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.—HEBREWS 1:3.

SEPTEMBER 5

ILLUMINED—NOT ISOLATED

OFTENTIMES people seek guidance from God by asking Him to shut up a certain way that is opening to them, if it be not His will that they go that way. There is no warrant whatever for doing that. God has

given us judgment and is ready to illuminate that judgment, and we have no right to act the part of helpless children and ask Him to render us utterly immune from possible mishap or danger.

. . . But now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.—EPHESIANS 5:8.

SEPTEMBER 6

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

IT is not enough that we have our times of secret prayer alone with God; we also need fellowship with others in prayer. If there is a prayer-meeting in your church, attend it regularly. Attend it for your own sake; attend it for the sake of the church.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another.—HEBREWS 10:25.

SEPTEMBER 7

"HIS BLOOD AVAILS FOR ME!"

GOD is holy? Yes. And I am a sinner? Yes; but by the wondrous offering of Christ, "once for all," I am perfected; and on the virtue of that blood, so precious to God, I can come boldly into the very presence of God. Oh, wondrous blood!

And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.—REVELATION 7:14.

SEPTEMBER 8

WORTHY WORSHIP

THERE is a great deal so-called worship that is *not* worship. Reading the Bible and meditating upon it, is not worship. It may lead to worship but it is not worship. Listening to a sermon is not worship. Praying is not worship. It may be, and should be, accompanied by worship; but it is not worship. Singing is not, necessarily nor generally, worship. There are hymns which, if sung intelligently and in the proper spirit, *would* be worship, but they are comparatively few in the hymnology of the day. Worship is a definite act of a character very clearly defined in the Bible. It is, as said, the soul bowing before God in adoring contemplation of Himself.

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.—2 CHRONICLES 20:18.

SEPTEMBER 9

THE GREAT INTERPRETER

HOW much more interesting and helpful any deep book becomes when we have its author right at hand, to interpret it to us! This is what we always may have, when we study the Bible. The author—the Holy Spirit—is right at hand to interpret, and to understand the Book we must look to Him and the darkest places become clear.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.—PSALM 119:18.

SEPTEMBER 10

THE VICTORY OF SURRENDER

A LIFE surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit, is a life of joy and peace and freedom. There is no anxiety in such a life, there is no fear in the presence of God.

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.—ROMANS 8:21.

SEPTEMBER 11

THE GOD OF ALL FLESH

ANYONE who carefully studies history will see that throughout the whole story of the race, as Tennyson puts it, "one increasing purpose runs." We see that above the human actors—kings, generals, statesmen, and commoners trying to carry out their own ambitions and purposes—there has been the guiding hand of One who has worked out good from the lowest ambitions and vilest passions of mankind.

Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: and the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain.—PSALM 76:10.

SEPTEMBER 12

STRENGTHENING THEIR HANDS

THOSE whom God has called to devote their lives to the ministry of the Word, should be the especial objects of the prayers of God's people. The neglect of prayer on the part of God's people accounts, very largely, for the absence of power on the part of God's ministers.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.—MATTHEW 9:38.

SEPTEMBER 13

FULLNESS OF JOY

THE Spirit-filled life is always joyful and jubilant and nothing can disturb its joy. No matter how adverse the circumstances, its joy abideth; for its joy is not in circumstances but in Him, who is the same yesterday, to-day and for ever.

And your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.—JOHN 16:22.

SEPTEMBER 14

AT ALL TIMES

IT is a much more common practice to pray before the great events of life than to pray after them; yet the latter is as important as the former. If we would pray after praiseworthy achievements, we might go on to some that are still greater; as it is, we are often either puffed up or exhausted by the things we do in the name of the Lord, and so advance no further in deed and accomplishment.

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.—1 TIMOTHY 4:5.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.—LUKE 18:1.

SEPTEMBER 15

IS HE YOURS?

THE Holy Spirit was sent by the Father into this world to be to the disciples of our Lord in this present dispensation, just what Jesus Christ had been to His disciples during the days of His personal com-

panionship with them on earth. Is He that to you? Do you know *the communion* of the Holy Spirit?

For He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.—JOHN 14:7.

SEPTEMBER 16

ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED

THERE has been an absolute interchange of positions between Christ and the justified believer. Christ took our place, the place of the curse; He was made sin. God reckoned Him a sinner and dealt with Him as a sinner; and when we are justified, we step into His place—the place of acceptance.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. —2 CORINTHIANS 5:21.

SEPTEMBER 17

LISTENING TO THE LAW

THE man who turns away his ear from hearing God's law, cannot pray so that God will hear; the one who turns his ear to listen attentively to God's law, can pray so that God *will* hear. This explains why some men's prayers are heard, and some men's are not.

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice; and to hearken than the fat of rams.—1 SAMUEL 15:22.

SEPTEMBER 18

"EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR"

TO walk with God means to live one's life in the consciousness of God's presence and of sweet communion with Him; to have the thought constantly before

us, "God is beside me," and to be every now and then speaking to Him, and still more listening for Him to speak to us. In a word, to walk with God is to live in real, constant, conscious companionship with Him, day by day.

In Thy presence is fulness of joy.—PSALM 16:11.

SEPTEMBER 19

GOD OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

GOD'S knowledge of all things is complete, so that nothing whatever can be ever added to it. He knows everything about everything—its height and depth and length and breadth, and in its every detail. There is nothing on earth or in heaven, nothing in those five hundred million inconceivably vast stars, nothing in the minutest of the most infinitesimal atom or electrons of the animalculæ and bacteria—even that which the most powerful miscroscope cannot reveal, that God does not already fully know, in its every detail.

Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite.—PSALM 147:5.

SEPTEMBER 20

BEYOND THE REACH OF TIME

WORDS that can come out of eighteen centuries of human experience, unscathed, unscarred, unmarred, will stand for ever. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the words of Christ shall abide for ever.

The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.—1 PETER 1:24,25.

SEPTEMBER 21

THE HOPE OF THE RACE

MAN'S only rational foundation for hope in the future, is the existence of an intelligent, beneficent, and omnipotent God ruling nature and the affairs of men, in such fashion as prevent eternal disaster.

For Thou art my hope, O Lord God: Thou art my trust from my youth.—PSALM 71:5.

SEPTEMBER 22

THE EVER-PRESENT GOD

THERE are certain things that we do in the absence of certain holy friends that we would not for a moment do in their presence; but God is always present whether we know it or not, and if we walk in the consciousness of His presence, our lives and hearts will speedily whiten.

Thou God seest me.—GENESIS 16:13.

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. —GALATIANS 5:16.

SEPTEMBER 23

TRANSMITTED TRAITS

WE become like those with whom we habitually associate. How like their parents, children become! How many mothers and fathers have been startled by seeing their own imperfections and follies mirrored in their children, and husband and wife grow strangely like one another. Thus, also, the one who associates with God becomes like God.

I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness.—PSALM 17:15.

SEPTEMBER 24

NOTHING DOUBTING

ONE ounce of believing experience is worth whole tons of unbelieving exegesis, no matter how subtle and learned it may be. There are thousands of men and women who have been brought out of a place of powerlessness into a place of power in the Lord's service, through meeting the conditions plainly laid down in the Bible for receiving the Holy Ghost.

And Ananias putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.—ACTS 9:17.

SEPTEMBER 25

GREAT PARDON, GREAT LOVE!

WE shall never appreciate Christ's love to us until we see it against the black background of our own sin. It is the one who is forgiven much who loves much.

We love Him, because He first loved us.—1 JOHN 4:19.

SEPTEMBER 26

THE HOPE BEYOND

A FRIEND of mine once told me that he believed, that when he died, that would be the end of him. He was very sure of it. Not long after, his mother died, and he wrote me a letter about her having passed into a better life. His professed atheistic philosophy went to pieces, and his eyes were turned towards heaven.

But now they desire a better country that is, an heavenly . . . for He hath prepared for them a city.—HEBREWS 11:16.

SEPTEMBER 27

MINDFUL OF HIS OWN

GOD'S guidance is the privilege of the believer in Jesus Christ, and of him alone. By believer, I do not mean the one who merely has an orthodox faith about Jesus Christ, but one who has that living faith in Jesus Christ which leads him to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to surrender his life to His service and control.

To give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace. —LUKE 1:77,79.

SEPTEMBER 28

"NOT UNTO US——"

THERE must be a repentance from the attitude of mind that seeks the glory that comes from man, to the attitude that seeks the glory that comes from God, in order to believe in Christ.

How can ye believe, who receive glory one of another, and the glory that cometh from the only God ye seek not?—JOHN 5:44. R.V.

SEPTEMBER 29

OF NO AVAIL

HOW many there are to-day who are really depending for their hope of heaven upon their generous giving? And how many there are who think of those who are generous givers as men who cannot be lost,

because they give so much for the poor and for God's work? Vain thought! None of these things save.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor . . . it profiteth me nothing.—1 CORINTHIANS 13:3.

SEPTEMBER 30

THE NEW CREATION

ALL that we can get by human parentage, no matter how godly or pious or moral or cultured that parentage may be, is natural, and the kingdom of God is spiritual. In order to enter that kingdom, we must be born of the Spirit.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.—JOHN 3:6.

OCTOBER 1

LOVE FROM ABOVE

IF you desire the love of God, let the Spirit work in your heart and bear His fruit in your life. You will never attain unto love by any mere effort of your own. Love for God is not a fruit that is native to the soil of the human heart; it is a thing of Divine implanting.

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.—ROMANS 5:5.

OCTOBER 2

THE ACCEPTABLE OFFERING

THE rendering of thanks unto God is more acceptable to Him than costly sacrifices. We cannot all bring expensive offerings to God, but we can all bring the

more pleasing offering of true and hearty thanksgiving. The only appraisal God sets on a gift is that which is measured by the motive which prompts it. A man may have a costly gift accepted, and a poor man have his mite spurned, or vice versa. It depends on the motive.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.—PSALM 69:30, 31.

OCTOBER 3

ALWAYS NEAR

DO you know the companionship of the Holy Spirit, the partnership of the Holy Spirit, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the comradeship of the Holy Spirit? To put it into a single word—I say it reverently—do you know my *Friend*, the Holy Spirit?

And thine ear shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.—ISAIAH 30:21.

OCTOBER 4

SAVIOUR AND KING

THE failure to realise that Jesus is King, as well as Saviour, has led to many a false start in the Christian life. We begin with Him as our Saviour, as our sin-bearer and our Deliverer from the power of sin, but we must not end with Him here; we must know Him as Lord and King.

. . . Far above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.—EPHESIANS 1:21.

OCTOBER 5

CONSTRAINING LOVE

IT was the love of Christ that constrained Paul to his untiring efforts to bring men to a knowledge of Christ. The great men and women of Christian history have been the men and women who had a great love for Christ, whose hearts were aglow with love to the glorious Son of God.

For the love of Christ constraineth us. . . . Wherefore, henceforth know we no man after the flesh.—2 CORINTHIANS 5:14,16.

OCTOBER 6

"DARKNESS CANNOT HIDE FROM THEE"

THERE is nothing that any one does in any part of the universe, there is not one slightest act, good or evil, that God does not "keep watch upon." We all do well to keep that solemn fact in mind day and night, and to remember that we cannot hide one thing we do from God.

If I say, Surely the darkness will cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee.—PSALM 139:11,12.

OCTOBER 7

BOTH ENDS OF THE DAY

EACH day should be begun and closed with thanksgiving to God. The thought of God's goodness to us should rule our lives. With this thought we should arise in the morning, and lie down with it to sleep.

It is a good thing to . . . shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.—PSALM 92:1, 2.

OCTOBER 8

SIN THAT BARS

SIN is an awful thing, and one of the most dreadful things about it is the way it hinders prayer. Any one who would have power in prayer, must be merciless in dealing with his own sins. So long as we hold on to them or have any controversy with God, we cannot expect Him to heed our prayers. If there is anything that is constantly coming up in your moments of close communion with God, that is the thing that hinders our praying, and it must be put away.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.—PSALM 66:18.

OCTOBER 9

"O, GIVE THANKS!"

THERE must, of course, be times in which we give ourselves up exclusively to thanksgiving, by which this perpetual atmosphere of gratitude is maintained. There should be ejaculatory thanks as well as ejaculatory prayer.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—EPHESIANS 5:20.

OCTOBER 10

THE UNIVERSAL LAW

IF any man could have got to heaven without being born again, Nicodemus was the man. He seemed to have pretty much everything that would entitle one to an entrance into the kingdom of God. If Nicodemus could

not see nor enter the kingdom without the experience of the New Birth, certainly none of us can. Necessity for the New Birth is absolutely universal, and there are no exceptions.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—JOHN 3:3.

OCTOBER 11

THE FRAILTY OF THE FLESH

ALL approach to God should be in the Holy Spirit's power. The true believer has no confidence in the flesh. The flesh may prompt us to pray for many things. That is no reason for asking for them. We should no more follow the promptings of the flesh in praying, than in sinning, but should submit every desire to the Holy Spirit, and seek His guidance in prayer.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.—JUDE 20. R.V.

OCTOBER 12

TRUE WORSHIP

THE root of the Hebrew word translated "worship" in the Old Testament means "to bow down." It has been well said that in prayer we are occupied with our needs, in thanksgiving, with our blessings, in worship, with God.

And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.—NEHEMIAH 8:6.

OCTOBER 13

WORTHLESS PRAYING

THE chief purpose in prayer should be that God may be glorified in the answer. If we ask merely that we may receive for use in our pleasures, or for our own gratification in one way or another, we ask amiss, and need not expect to receive what we ask.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend it in your pleasures.—JAMES 4:3. R.V.

OCTOBER 14

THE SPIRIT'S UTTERANCE

THE Holy Spirit is quite wise enough and has quite enough facility in revealing truth to and through any individual, to use words, phrases and forms of expression in a man's vocabulary and forms of thought, and to make use of his peculiar individuality. It is a mark of the Divine wisdom that the same Divine truth is expressed with absolute accuracy, in such widely variant forms of expression.

The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.—2 SAMUEL 23:2.

OCTOBER 15

NO DARKNESS AT ALL

BY nature we are all in darkness and children of darkness. God sends Jesus into the world to be the Light of the world. The light there is in Him, the light He Himself is, streams into our hearts when we believe in Him. Faith opens the window and lets in the light.

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.—JOHN 12:46.

OCTOBER 16

PLEASING THE FATHER

A SON may do whatever a father bids him; but a more loyal and loving son will not wait to be bidden, but study to find out what is pleasing to his father and anticipate the expression of his will. To know what was pleasing to the Father was Jesus Christ's constant study; to do it, His unvarying practice.

And He that sent Me is with Me; He hath not left Me alone; for I do always the things that are pleasing to Him.—JOHN 8:29. R.V.

OCTOBER 17

"OUR HEAVENLY AARON"

THROUGH the exaltation of Jesus Christ we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, and so can hold fast our confession, and draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace. If we have any hesitation or fear in our approach to God, all we need to do is to remember our ascended Saviour, pleading our cause in the presence of God, at the very right hand of the throne.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. . . . Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—HEBREWS 4:15,16.

OCTOBER 18

RIGHTFUL RELIANCE

RELYING on Christ for healing *brings* healing; relying on Christ for help, *brings* help; relying on Christ for pardon, *brings* pardon; relying on Christ

for power, *brings* power; relying on Christ for victory, *brings* victory. And this fruitful reliance is determined by His character and His definite promises. The Christian believer has a right to depend on God.

Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.—MATTHEW 9:29.

OCTOBER 19

THE OPEN DOOR

THERE are few more pitiable sights than men who believe God has called them to preach yet who can find no open door. True prayer to God to open a door, and a willingness to enter the door God opens, would solve the difficulty.

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds.—COLOSSIANS 4:3.

OCTOBER 20

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS

IT is doubtful if we can accomplish much in some cities by our votes, but there is no city in which we cannot accomplish much by our prayers. There is a place where the influence of a child of God counts more than at the polling-booth or the caucus—at the throne of grace. There are many to-day urging Christians to vote as they pray. The average twentieth century Christian needs more to be urged to pray as he votes, for if he voted as he prayed, he would not vote at all.

And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.—JEREMIAH 29:7.

OCTOBER 21

THE LINE OF DIVISION

THE doctrine of the universal Fatherhood of God is utterly un-Scriptural and untrue. It is true all men are his offspring, or stock, or race, or nation, in the sense of being His creatures, having our being in Him, and being made in His likeness. But by faith in Jesus we become His sons or children.

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God.—1 JOHN 3:9,10.

OCTOBER 22

THE WILL AND THE WITNESS

THOSE, who having once believed Jesus Christ to be the Son of God drift away into worldliness, selfishness and sin often find themselves questioning the Deity of Christ. On the other hand, those, who having questioned the Deity of Christ, come nearer to God, turn their backs upon sin and selfishness, and give themselves up more wholly to find and do His will, find their doubts about the Deity of Christ vanishing into thin air.

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God.—PSALM 143:10.

OCTOBER 23

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

FAITH is manifested by prompt and exact obedience to the commandments of Him who is believed in, simply because He commands, although we know not the

purpose of His command, nor the outcome of our obedience. Obedience does not permit of questioning, does not suggest alternatives and is not possessed of an inquisitive spirit. Obedience *obeys.*

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.—HEBREWS 11:8.

OCTOBER 24

"THE TIMES ARE IN HIS HAND"

NO study is more practical and instructive than the study of history, and it is not only instructive but spiritually helpful if we only watch to see the hand of God made manifest, to see the inevitable triumph of right and the inevitable punishment of wrong, in individuals and in nations.

His right hand, and His holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory. —PSALM 98:1.

OCTOBER 25

CLEAR SHINING

IF we will only bear in mind that God's guidance is clear guidance we will be delivered from this snare of Satan. Any leadings that are not absolutely clear, provided our wills are surrendered to God, are not from Him.

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.—1 JOHN 1:5.

OCTOBER 26

THE RIGHTFUL ORDER

GOOD works will not be the ground of our salvation, but the result of our salvation, and the proof of it. We must be very careful not to confound our good works with the ground of salvation. We are forgiven solely and entirely because of Christ's atoning death.

For by grace are ye saved through faith . . . not of works, lest any man should boast.—EPHESIANS 2:8,9.

OCTOBER 27

SEEKING SOULS

JESUS not only watched for, and welcomed opportunities when they came His way, He *sought* opportunities. He not only received the lost when they came to Him, He went after them. A true love for souls will always reveal itself in a going-out in search of them.

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?—LUKE 15:4.

OCTOBER 28

CHRISTLESS CRITICISM

DO not waste your strength in criticism against either church or minister. Seek for what is good in a church and in its minister and do your best to strengthen it. Drawing off by yourself and snarling and grumbling will do no good. That will simply make you, and the truths for which you stand, the synonym for intolerance.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive?—1 CORINTHIANS 4:7.

OCTOBER 29

TAKEN AT HIS WORD

IF you are a believer in Jesus Christ, to doubt that your sin is forgiven when you have confessed it, is to question both the righteousness and faithfulness of God, as well as to question His veracity. Therefore, to question that your sins are forgiven is not becoming humility, but mere presumption.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness.—DANIEL 9:9.

OCTOBER 30

THE SPIRIT'S LEADING

IT is possible for us to have the unerring guidance of the Holy Spirit at every turn of life. For example: in personal work it is manifestly not God's intention that we speak to every one we meet. There are some to whom we ought not to speak. Time spent on them would be taken from work more to God's glory. Doubtless Philip met many as he journeyed toward Gaza before he met the one of whom the Spirit said: "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." So is God ready to guide us also.

Now when they had gone throughout Phyrgia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.—ACTS 16:6.

OCTOBER 31

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS

THERE is no greater, nor more simple secret of a life of uninterrupted and ever-increasing joyfulness, than a heart attuned to thankfulness. Our disappoint-

ments become God's appointments, our sorrows become joys, and our tears become rainbows. There is a song on our lip, not made in synthetic melody, but welling up from the heart.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose. —ROMANS 8:28.

NOVEMBER 1

THE WONDERFUL WALK

GOD is saying to each of us to-day, "Come, take a walk with me." If we accept the wondrous invitation He will lead us on as long as we will let Him, and some day it will be true of us, as some one has quaintly said of Enoch, we shall walk so far with God we shall not come back, and so be, for ever with the Lord.

I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble.—JEREMIAH 31:9.

NOVEMBER 2

"TAKE HEED TO THYSELF"

DO not spend your time or thought in criticising others because they do not follow Jesus. See that you are following Him yourself. When you are wasting your time criticising others for not following Jesus, the Master is always saying to you, "What is that to thee; follow thou Me." The question for you is not what following Jesus may involve for other people. The question is what does following Jesus mean for *you*?

Jesus saith unto him . . . What is that to thee? follow thou Me.—JOHN 21:22.

NOVEMBER 3

CONTINUAL PRAISE

THERE cannot, of course, always be the word of thanks on our lips, but there can always be the heart going up toward God in gratitude and praise. Thanksgiving and prayer should be the atmosphere in which we live, the air we breathe, and just as a man keeps right on breathing while doing a thousand other things, so we can keep on praising and thanking, and praying to God while doing a thousand other things and just as easily and naturally.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.—1 THESSALONIANS 5:18.

NOVEMBER 4

IN DEATH, IN LIFE—MINE!

FROM the bottom of my heart I praise God for Christ on the Cross. All my hope of acceptance before God is built upon His bearing my sins in His own body on the Cross, and I praise God for it. But I praise God, also for Christ *in* me, a living, personal Christ, to-day, living His life through me, and causing me to walk even as He, Himself, walked.

. . . *Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.*—GALATIANS 2:20.

NOVEMBER 5

INSTANT OBEDIENCE

MANY and many a man has seen the path of duty as clear as day before him, but, instead of stepping out at once, he has hesitated, even when the will of

God has become perfectly clear. Before long, he was plunged into absolute uncertainty as to what God would have him do at all. When God speaks and indicates the way, He expects instant compliance from His children.

But when it pleased God . . . to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me: but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.—GALATIANS 1:17.

NOVEMBER 6

SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED

THERE must be natural sight to discern natural beauty. There must be spiritual sight to discern spiritual beauty. A man who has sight can see more beauty without spectacles, than a sightless man can with the best glasses ever constructed. So the man who has spiritual sight can see more beauty in the Word of God without the aid of scholarship, than the spiritually sightless man can, with all the aids of the most recent and most approved scholarship at his command.

Not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual with spiritual.—1 CORINTHIANS 2:13.

NOVEMBER 7

LOVE TRIUMPHANT

"THE old time religion," as the gospel chorus goes, "makes me love everybody," and the complete life is the life of the one who *does* love everybody. There is absolutely no man whom the Spirit-filled man does not love. No matter how grievously men may have wronged

us, how grossly slandered us, how gravely injured us, if we are filled with the Spirit, we shall love them all.

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you and pray for them which despitefully use you.—LUKE 6:27,28.

NOVEMBER 8

THE HEAVENLY ALCHEMIST

THE Christian believer is not going to give up the Book that meets his deepest needs; that brings pardon and peace instead of guilt and remorse; liberty, manhood and nobility instead of bondage to sin; comfort in the darkest hours of sorrow, transforming the thunder-cloud into the rainbow; that inspires man with unquenchable hope, in the face of death and its terrors.

For I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.—JEREMIAH 31:13.

NOVEMBER 9

THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

SINGLE verses of the Bible have more saving power than all other books put together. John 3:16 has saved more men from sin to holiness, from degradation to honour, from bondage to the devil to sonship of God, than all books outside of the Bible. Try and account for it as you may, the fact stands, and does not admit of a moment's honest denial or question.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—JOHN 3:16.

NOVEMBER 10

DULY PENITENT

NOTHING but a Divine Saviour Who has redeemed them by shedding His blood to pay the penalty of their sins will satisfy the longings of sinful hearts. One of the greatest lacks in much of our so-called revival work, to-day, is the lack of a deep sense of sin on the part of those who come, or profess to come, to Jesus Christ.

For I will declare mine iniquity: I will be sorry for my sin. Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me.—PSALM 38:18,21.

NOVEMBER 11

SURE AND STEADFAST

WHEN your head is bewildered and your heart is sick amid the rapid changes that are taking place all about you in institutions, in things, in men, even in preachers and other religious leaders, just look up to God and rejoice in Him as the One who is absolutely always the same—in His infinite wisdom, infinite righteousness, infinite holiness, infinite power, and infinite love.

For I am the Lord, I change not.—MALACHI 3:6.

NOVEMBER 12

THE BOOK OF POWER

THE Bible has a unique saving power in individual lives. What book or books can match the Bible's record of men and women saved from sin and vice in all their forms—from drunkenness, drugs, lust, greed, ruf-

fianism, barbarism, meanness, selfishness? Worthless sots transformed into honest citizens and fathers; degraded prostitutes transformed into holy women of God; savages who drank blood from human skulls transformed into noble lovers of friends and foes; murderers transformed into saints, in whom dwelt the Spirit of the Highest!

. . . The holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus.—2 TIMOTHY 3:15.

NOVEMBER 13

THE SPIRITUAL IMPERATIVE

NOTHING else can possibly take the place of the New Birth. Education, morality, religion, orthodoxy, baptism, reform—none of these nor all of them together, are sufficient. We *must* be born again.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.—GALATIANS 6:15.

NOVEMBER 14

"YE BLIND, BEHOLD!"

ALL around us, we see the blind leading the blind, and both falling into the ditch of destructive criticism. Only prayer will open human eyes to a real appreciation of the Bible. One can see more of its beauty and learn more of its truth in an hour, at the feet of Jesus, than in four years at the feet of mere men.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto Him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.—MARK 10:51.

NOVEMBER 15

NOTHING BETWEEN

IF you have received Jesus believe it, know it, rejoice in it. Having settled it, let it remain settled. Never doubt it. You may make mistakes, you may stumble, you may fall, but even if you do, if you have really received Jesus, know your sins forgiven and rise from your fall, and go forward in the glad assurance that there is nothing standing between you and God.

. . . Neither death nor life . . . nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—ROMANS 8:38,39.

NOVEMBER 16

CLEANSING THE CORE

IT is vain for us to try to cleanse our own heart. A clean heart requires a creative act that God alone can perform and will do in answer to prayer. He will create in us hearts that love righteousness and hate sin, and which beat in love and unity with the purposes of the Most High.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.—PSALM 51:10.

NOVEMBER 17

UNITY OF BELIEVERS

GOD everywhere emphasizes and blesses the unity of believers and there is especial power in united prayer. But there must be real unity of desire concerning the specific thing desired. It is very easy to get some one to unite with me in asking some thing I desire, but

still there may be no unity of desire. The other asks it simply because I wish it. But when the Holy Spirit leads two believing hearts to beat as one concerning some coveted blessing, then there is effectual power.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.—MATTHEW 18:19, 20.

NOVEMBER 18

OPENED EYES

WE shall never see nor appreciate the wondrous things of God's Word until God Himself opens our eyes to behold them. This He does in answer to prayer. Prayer gives a keen perception of spiritual beauty, of which the prayerless man never dreams.

He revealeth the deep and secret things . . . and the light dwelleth with Him.—DANIEL 2:22.

NOVEMBER 19

UNENDING GRACE

SALVATION is begun by the atoning death of Jesus Christ; it is continued by the resurrection and intercession of Christ. We have not only a Saviour who died and so made atonement for sin, but also a Saviour who rose and carried the blood into God's own presence and presents it there, and who ever lives and pleads our cause.

These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.—1 JOHN 2:1.

NOVEMBER 20

IN WORD AND DEED

IN order to have assurance we must live out a life of love; love not merely in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth. To claim acceptance at the hands of One who is love incarnate, while lacking love in our own lives, is to require an impossible condition which God will not meet.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.—1 JOHN 3:18, 19.

NOVEMBER 21

THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT

A CHRISTIAN life is not to be lived in the realm of natural temperament, and Christian work is not to be done in the power of natural endowment. Christian life is to be lived in the realm of the Spirit, and Christian work is to be done in the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is willing and eagerly desirous to do for each of us His whole work. He will do for each of us all that we let Him do.

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.—ROMANS 8:11.

NOVEMBER 22

PARTAKERS WITH GOD

JUST to think that the All Holy God comes to men sunken in sin, dead through trespasses and sins, the vilest of sinners, blind, corrupt, perverse, and imparts to

them His own wise, holy and glorious nature! The doctrine of the New Birth is one of the most precious and inspiring in the Word of God.

Whereby He hath granted unto us His precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature.—2 PETER 1:4. R. V.

NOVEMBER 23

RIGHTEOUS REJOICING

IN modern discussions we hear more of the justice, or righteousness of God in its relation to the punishment of sinners; but in the Bible we read of it more in relation to the protection of His people. In modern usage it is more frequently held up as an attribute of God at which sinners should tremble; in the Bible it is constantly dwelt upon as an attribute of God at which His people should rejoice.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth . . .—PSALM 96:12,13.

NOVEMBER 24

THE NEED OF RENEWAL

THERE are many Christians who once had a very definite outpouring of the Holy Spirit and were wonderfully used, but who have tried to go ever since in the power of that baptism received years ago. To-day, their lives are comparatively joyless and powerless. We need constantly to get new supplies of oil for our lamps, new stores of heavenly grace.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.—REVELATION 2:5.

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NOVEMBER 25

PROVED BY THE WORD

LEADINGS must be tested by the Word. Whatever promptings may come to us from any other source, whether it be by human counsel, or by the prompting of some invisible spirit, or in whatever way it may come, we must test the promptings, or the guidance or the counsel, by the sure Word of God.

To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.—ISAIAH 8:20.

NOVEMBER 26

HOLY SILENCE

NOTHING can be more foolish in prayer than to rush heedlessly into God's presence, and ask the first thing that comes to mind. When we first come into God's presence we should be silent before Him. We should look up to Him to send His Holy Spirit to teach us how to pray. We must wait for the Holy Spirit, and surrender ourselves to Him, in order that we may pray aright.

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.—PSALM 37:7,4.

NOVEMBER 27

THE AMAZING ATONEMENT

THE atonement of Christ has an immense sweep—far beyond the reach of human philosophies. We have only just begun to understand what Calvary means. Sin is a far more awful, ruinous and far-reaching evil than we have been wont to think, yet the blood of Christ

has power and efficiency, the fullness of which, only eternity will disclose.

For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.—COLOSSIANS 1:19,20.

NOVEMBER 28

CONSTANT CONFESSION

IT is not enough that we confess Christ just once—as, for example, when we are confirmed, or when we unite in church membership, or when we come forward in a revival meeting. We should confess Christ constantly; we should not be ashamed of our Lord and King; we should let people know that we are on His side. In the home, in the church, at our work, at our play—we should let the world know where we stand.

For this cause I will confess to Thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto Thy name.—ROMANS 15:9.

NOVEMBER 29

FAINT YET PURSUING!

DO not waste your time looking for a perfect church. There *is* no perfect church. If you wait until you find a perfect church before you unite with any, you will unite with none, and so belong to a church in which you are the only member, and which is the most imperfect church of all. I would rather belong to the most imperfect Christian church I ever knew, than to belong to no church at all.

I have seen an end of all perfection: but Thy commandment is exceeding broad.—PSALM 119:96.

NOVEMBER 30

UNBROKEN PROMISES

COUNTLESS men and women have tested God's promises. They have tested them in the home, in church-life, in the place of business, in prosperity, in adversity, in sickness, in health, in the joys of peace, in the horrors of war, in the struggle of life, when face to face with death, in the sweet fullness of the unbroken family circle, in desolation, when every earthly friend has been taken away. . . .

For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen. . . . —2 CORINTHIANS 1:20.

DECEMBER 1

THE INDISPENSABLE SPIRIT

WE not only need the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth in the first place, and, in the second place, to interpret to us as individuals the truth He has revealed, but, in the third place, we need the Holy Spirit to enable us to effectually communicate to others, the truth He Himself has interpreted to us.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—ACTS 1:8.

DECEMBER 2

A MAN FAVOURED OF GOD

THE entire history of Enoch is contained in nine verses in the Bible—six in the Old Testament, three in the New. History outside of the Bible is utterly unacquainted with him, yet he stands out as one of the most

remarkable and admirable men of whom the Scriptures speak, a man whom God honoured as He has but one other member of the entire race. His greatness was of the kind that secured God's favour.

For before his [Enoch's] translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.—HEBREWS 11:5.

DECEMBER 3

COMPLETE IN HIM

WHEN Christ died He died as our representative: when He arose, He arose as our representative; when He ascended, He ascended as our representative, and, at God's right hand, He is seated as our representative. As crucified, risen, ascended, seated, He is declared to be God's chosen and accepted One, and we are declared chosen, accepted, righteous in Him.

God . . . hath quickened us together with Christ . . . and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.—EPHESIANS 2:4-6.

DECEMBER 4

SIMPLE YET FATHOMLESS

NO other book is more simple in its style than the Bible. Its style is so simple and clear that a child can understand it, but its truth is so profound that we explore the Book from childhood to old age and can never say we have reached the bottom.

O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!—ROMANS 11:33.

DECEMBER 5

DUAL PLEADING

EVERY believer in Christ has two Divine Persons praying for him every day—the Son, at the right hand of God, and the Holy Spirit Who prays through us down here on earth. What a wonderful thought! What a sense it gives us of glorious security!

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world . . . Holy Father, Keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given me. . . .—JOHN 17:11.

The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.—ROMANS 8:26.

DECEMBER 6

VICARIOUS LOVE

JESUS CHRIST did not go about His work from a cold sense of duty, but His own heart drew Him out, towards those He helped and saved. His deeds of mercy cost Him something more than the sacrifice of leisure, and the expenditure of effort and power. They cost Him heartaches. He made other men's sorrows His own sorrows, other men's agony His own agony, other men's sin and shame His own sin and shame. He could not look upon misery, pain, death or sin without heart-pangs. Herein lay one great secret of His power.

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. . . . Then said the Jews, Behold, how He loved him! —JOHN 11:33,36.

DECEMBER 7

COPYING THE COMMANDER

JESUS could speak to more than five thousand at once, and yet He never thought personal work beneath His dignity or His gifts. Indeed, it was the work the Saviour loved to do. We have more instances of our Saviour's personal work recorded in the Gospels than of His preaching. The one who is above personal work, is above his Master.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. —JOHN 13:16.

DECEMBER 8

GRANTED FOR FULL SURRENDER

IF we so live in Christ as to have no independent life of our own; so that we do not seek to have any thoughts, plans, feelings, purposes, works, fruit but His; if we let Christ think His thoughts, feel His feelings, purpose His purposes, work His works, bear His fruit, in us—when we do this, and in so far as we do this, we may command from Him our heart's desires.

According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God. . . . —DEUTERONOMY 18:16.

DECEMBER 9

THE FIRST AND SECOND ADAM

ADAM stood as the representative of the race; indeed he *was* the race, and all coming generations were in him. Many a thoughtless man says: "I would rather stand for myself." Well, if you had stood for yourself,

you would have fallen as Adam did. God's plan—when we see the whole of it—is far more gracious than that. As the first Adam fell for us, so we all would have done for ourselves; so the second Adam obeyed for us, as none of us would have done, if left to stand for ourselves.

For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one shall many be made righteous.—ROMANS 5:19. R.V.

DECEMBER 10

VITALLY UNCHANGED

AT the coming of Jesus Christ, the bodies of those who sleep in Christ shall be raised from the dead. Not, however, precisely the same bodies, even as the grain that grows is not precisely the same as the grain that was sown. The grain that was sown disintegrates and many of its constituent elements go, no one can say whither. But the formative principle takes to itself many new elements, no one can say whence. So, also, is it in the Resurrection.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die; and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body.—1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38.

DECEMBER 11

WELL-PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT

GOD sees whatever we do, He hears whatever we say, He sees our every thought, and not a vagrant fancy is allowed a moment's lodgment in our mind but what He sees it; and if there is anything impure, unholy, im-

modest, uncharitable, untrue, false, censorious, bitter, or unChristlike in any way, in word or thought or act, He is grieved beyond expression. This is a wonderful thought, and the mightiest incentive to careful living, such as will please our God in act and word and thought.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ. . . . Stand fast in one Spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel.—PHILIPPIANS 1:27.

DECEMBER 12

THE LIFE THAT NOW IS

THE Gospel has a power to inspire activity that nothing else possesses. It makes lazy men industrious; half-alive men fully alive. There are said to be but two things of which a professional tramp is afraid, water and work; but I have seen the very tramp, from whom I got this information, transformed into a man of untiring industry by the matchless power given him of the Lord.

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.—TITUS 2:14.

DECEMBER 13

TRULY STRONG

THE truly strong man does not quickly resent injuries done by others. He is never suspicious nor sensitive. No matter how great and strong a man may be in other respects, if he is quick to imagine that others are wronging him, or quick to resent the insult or injury which is not imaginary but very real, he is not a truly strong man, nor a Spirit-governed man.

. . . That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.—2 CORINTHIANS 4:11.

DECEMBER 14

BEYOND ALL OTHER POWER

MEN have been looking constantly for proofs of the existence and character of God. There is the argument from creative intelligence and design in the material universe, from the evidence of an intelligent guiding hand in human history, the ontological argument, etc., but the resurrection of Jesus Christ points with unerring certainty to the existence, power and holiness of the God who raised Him from the dead.

Who through Him are believers in God, that raised Him from the dead, and gave Him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God.—1 PETER 1:21. R.V.

DECEMBER 15

TO EACH THE FITTING TASK

SATAN cheats many of God's children out of accomplishing the things that God would have them do, by making them restless in the homely paths that He opens up to them for doing things that they can do, and sets their heart upon doing things that they cannot do. Many lives are spoiled and rendered useless in this way. God finds all His children work to do, but He knows that not all are fitted for the tented field.

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head: also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go. . . . And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these. . . . And David put them off him.—1 KINGS 17:38,39.

DECEMBER 16

HIDDEN FROM THE WISE

NO amount of study of Hebrew or Greek, or mere intellectual study of any sort, will open spiritual eyes blinded by sin. The prayerless eye can no more see the spiritual beauty of God's truth revealed in the pages of the Bible, through the spectacles of linguistic knowledge, than the blind natural eye can see the beauties of the natural world through any spectacles, no matter how scientifically constructed.

Who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant? Seeing many things but thou observest not.—ISAIAH 42:19,20.

DECEMBER 17

GRAVEN ON THE HEART

IT is not by seasons of mystical meditation and rapturous experiences that we learn to abide in Christ; it is by feeding upon His written Word, and looking to the Holy Spirit to implant it in our hearts and to make it a living thing within us.

Written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.—2 CORINTHIANS 3:3.

DECEMBER 18

POWERS OF DARKNESS

WE should always bear in mind that there are other spirits beside the Holy Spirit, and one of the gravest mistakes that anyone can make in his Christian life, is that of being so anxious for spirit-guidance that

he is willing to open his soul to any spirit who may come along and try to lead him. All such agencies should be tested, and tested by the Word.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.—1 JOHN 4:1.

DECEMBER 19

WHOM TO KNOW, IS LIFE

PHILOSOPHY is not like unto God. Modernism, in all its forms, is not like unto Him. Let us cast to the bats and the owls these man-made gods, and believe in, and obey and surrender our lives to, and worship and adore the God of the Bible; and let us continue to study to know Him, ever more and more fully.

And this is life eternal, that they should know Thee the only true God, and Him whom Thou didst send, even Jesus Christ.—JOHN 17:3. R.V.

DECEMBER 20

"IN HIS STEPS"

ARE you walking as Jesus walked? Do you wish to walk as Jesus walked, cost whatever it may? Well then, give up your own attempts to do it, and just look up to the Risen Christ, and let Him come and dwell in you, and live His life out through you, and have His perfect will concerning you. Then you will walk, even as He walked, in this present world.

And He will dwell with them . . . and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.—REVELATION 21:3.

DECEMBER 21

PERPETUALLY NEW

THE utterances of Jesus Christ are not outgrown; they are as precious, to-day, as when they were first spoken. They are as perfectly applicable to present-day needs as to the needs of that day. They contain the solution of all modern individual and social problems; they have perpetual youth. There is not one single point at which the teachings of Jesus Christ have been outgrown or become antiquated. The human mind has been expanding for more than eighteen centuries since Jesus Christ spoke here on earth, but it has not outgrown Him. Words that can endure nineteen centuries of growth and still prove as thoroughly adequate to meet the needs of the race and each member of it as when first given, will stand for ever.

For ever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.—PSALM 119:89.

DECEMBER 22

UNDER HIS EYE

IF we have absolute confidence in God's judgment, and God's willingness to guide us, and are absolutely surrendered to His will, whatever it may be, and are willing to let God choose His way of guidance, and will go on step by step as He does guide us, and are studying His word to know His will, and are listening for the still small voice of the Spirit, going step by step as He leads, He will guide us with His counsel to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, and afterwards receive us into glory.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye.—PSALM 32:8.

DECEMBER 23

GOD KNOWS AND CARES

HERE we are told that God knows the sorrows of His people. It oftentimes seems as if God did not know and did not care. It must have seemed so sometimes to Israel in Egypt. But God did know and God did care; and in due time He proved that He knew and that He cared. And so is it to-day; there is not a sorrow that any one of us experiences (no matter how hidden it may be from the eyes of men), but God knows all about it, and God cares.

And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows.—EXODUS 3:7.

DECEMBER 24

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

THE man who believes the Bible, but rejects the Christ of the Bible, has no hope; the future has in it nothing for him but the appalling blackness of utter despair.

He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.—JOHN 3:36.

DECEMBER 25

WHY HE CAME

WHY should the Son of God step down from the throne of Heaven, lay aside His infinite glory, and consent to enter this world through the lowly door of Bethlehem's manger? The Incarnation was for the purpose of the Death. Jesus Christ's death was not a

mere incident of His human life, it was the supreme purpose of it. He became man in order that He might die as man and for man, and give His life as a ransom for many.

Thou shalt call His Name JESUS: *for He shall save His people from their sins.*—MATTHEW 1:21.

. . . Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 TIMOTHY 1:15.

DECEMBER 26

"—BEYOND COMPARE"

JESUS in the perfection of His character is indeed wonderful. He is the wonder of the ages. He stands out absolutely peerless and alone. When any man ventures to put anyone else alongside of Jesus Christ, he at once loses the confidence of all candid and fair-minded men.

For the law maketh high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath which was since the law, maketh the Son who is perfected for evermore.—HEBREWS 7:28. (Marg.)

DECEMBER 27

THE SOLACING WORD

I HAVE a New Testament that is very precious to me, because it was the gift of my mother to my grandmother, which was the stay of her life in her closing years. On the title-page of this Bible is written in my mother's hand, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." This is true, but, thank God, something better is true—earth has no sorrows that *the Bible* cannot heal, even in the life that now is.

He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.—PSALM 107:20.

EVANGELICAL
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DECEMBER 28

KEEPING POWER

IF we try to fight sin in our own strength, we are bound to fail. If we just look up to the risen Christ to keep us every day and every hour, He will keep us.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.—ISAIAH 40:30,31.

THROUGH the crucified Christ we get deliverance from the guilt of sin, our sins are all blotted out, we are free from all condemnation; but it is through the risen Christ that we get daily victory over the power of sin.

Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.—HEBREWS 7:25.

DECEMBER 29

SUBMISSIVE TO HIS WILL

THE main point in the whole matter of guidance is the absolute surrender of the will to God; the delighting in His will; the being willing to do joyfully the very things we would not like to do naturally, in connexion with which, there may be many disagreeable circumstances because of association with or even subordination to people that we do not altogether like, and difficulties of other kinds, doing them joyfully, simply because it is the will of God.

That ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.—COLOSSIANS 1:9.

DECEMBER 30

CONTINUED CONFIDENCE

WHEN a man submits his life to the absolute control of the Holy Spirit, his whole thought and feeling and will are irradiated with faith, and because he has faith in God and faith in God's Word he has great expectations, he is never discouraged, he is never pessimistic, never despondent, he marches forth confidently every day to victory.

Whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope, firm unto the end.—HEBREWS 5:6.

DECEMBER 31

ALWAYS READY!

THERE is no event predicted in Scripture, or series of events, that must occur before Jesus comes to receive His own unto Himself. But there are events that must occur before He comes to the earth with His saints. He may come for us *as far as we know* at any moment, and it stands us in good stead, to be always ready.

Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.—MATTHEW 24:42,44.

1940

THEME-INDEX

ACCEPTABLE OFFERING, THE, 119
Accepted in the Beloved, 114
Advocate with God, An, 23
Ageless Word, The, 31
Alive for Evermore, 14
All Glorious Within, 21
All-Seeing Eye, The, 29
Alone with God, 87
Always Near, 120
Always Ready, 156
All Things New, 37
Amazing Atonement, The, 141
"And God Himself is Light," 36
"And in the Garden Secretly," 53
Approach to God, The, 85
"—As a Tree Falls—," 105
Ascended Lord, The, 69
Asking Largely, 67
At All Times, 113

BAPTISM OF POWER, THE, 71
Before the Throne, 100
Beginnings of Grace, The, 107
Believing Prayer, 89
"Beside Me There is None Else," 48
Beyond All Other Power, 149
"—Beyond Compare," 154
Beyond the Reach of Time, 115
Blessed Assurance, 19
Boldness of Utterance, 99
Book of Power, The, 135
Borne Away, 41
Both Ends of the Day, 121
Bound to Believe, 43
Breath of the Soul, The, 91

CALVARY'S CONQUEST, 53
Central Spring, The, 14
Challenge of God, The, 92
Changeless but Repenting, 77
Channels Only, 27
Chastening Yet Constant, 98
Choice Company, 66
Christian Citizens, 126
Christless Criticism, 129
Christ Who Prayed, The, 73
Claimed and Verified, 109
Cleansing Blood, The, 75
Cleansing Companionship, 18
Cleansing the Core, 137
Clear Shining, 128
Closely Guarded, 91
Comfort and Strength, 58
Coming of the King, The, 32
Compassionate Christ, The, 75
Complete in Him, 144
Completed Knowledge, 45
Completed Work of Grace, The, 26
Conditions of Communion, 44
Confiding in God, 78
Constant Companionship, 55
Constant Confession, 142
Constraining Love, 121
Continual Praise, 132
Continued Confidence, 156
Continuing Christ, The, 16
Convicting Sin, The, 29
Copying the Commander, 146
Crowning Glory, The, 73
Crying Aloud, 83
Cup of His Passion, The, 40

DAILY ROUND, THE, 47
"Darkness Cannot Hide from Thee," 121
Days with God, 62
Dead, yet Gloriously Alive, 17
Depth and Height, 30
Directed by the Spirit, 76
Dual Pleading, 145
Duly Penitent, 135
D.V. (God Willing), 76

EARTHERN VESSELS, 105
Easily Grieved, 97
Enemy of the Eyes, The, 82
Erring Child, The, 60
Essence of Equity, The, 15
Eternal Light, 13
Eternal Priesthood, An, 57

"Even unto Me," 61
Ever-present God, The, 116
"Every Day—Every Hour," 114
Every Whit Whole, 104
". . . Except Thou Bless Me!" 20

FADED JOY, 19
Faint yet Pursuing, 142
Faith and Obedience, 127
False Lights, 98
Fellowship in Prayer, 110
Fellowship of Suffering, The, 56
First and Second Adam, The, 146
Flawless Word, The, 42
Following Faith, 34
Forgiving, We are Forgiven, 62
Fount of Wisdom, The, 68
Frailty of the Flesh, The, 123
From Prison to Paradise, 72
Fruit of the Spirit, The, 90
Fruit of the Tree, The, 51
Fullness of His Might, The, 46
Fullness of Joy, 113
Full Surrender, 35
Futile Task, The, 65

GENTLE SPIRIT, THE, 77
Getting Close to God, 67
Gifts for Men, 25
Glorious Change, The, 97
God Knows and Cares, 153
God of All Flesh, The, 112
God of All Knowledge, 115
God of the Bible, The, 96
God or—Naught! 16
Gospel in a Nutshell, The, 134
Gracious Guest, The, 24
Granted for Full Surrender, 146
Graven on the Heart, 150
Great Desire, The, 81
Great Example, The, 99
Great Interpreter, The, 111
Great Pardon—Great Love, 117
Ground of Confidence, The, 38
Guarded of God, 36

HARMONIOUS POWER, 13
Hatred for Evil, 61
"Heart from Sin Set Free, A," 49
Heart of the Gospel, The, 153
Heavenly Alchemist, The, 134
Hidden from the Wise, 150
Hindering Idols, 50
His—and Ours! 95
"His Blood Avails for Me," 110
His Perfect Likeness, 107
Holding Fast, 59
Holding On, 93
Holy Mirth, 21
Holy Silence, 141
Hope Beyond, The, 117
Hope Eternal, 95
Hope of Glory, The, 39
Hope of the Race, The, 116
Hurrying Chase, The, 15

ILLUMINED—NOT ISOLATED, 109
In Agony of Spirit, 36
In Death, in Life—Mine! 132
Indispensable Spirit, The, 143
Infirmities of the Weak, The, 75
In His Likeness, 30
In His Name, 64
In His Stead, 18
"In His Steps," 151
Instant Obedience, 132
In the Chamber of Thine Imagery, 17
In the Hour of Peril, 53
In Word and Deed, 139
Imperfect, yet Beloved, 34
Is He Yours? 113

"JESUS LIVES! TO HIM THE THRONE!" 54
Jesus Only, 79
Joined to Jesus, 52
Just for To-day, 101

KEEPING POWER, 155
King's Own, The, 38

LABOURERS TOGETHER, 27
Last Resort, The, 102
Law of the Lord, The, 59
Leaving Things to God, 40
Liberty of the Children, The, 16
Life of the Lord, The, 90
Life that Now Is, The, 148
Limited Wisdom, 83
Line of Division, The, 127
Listening Ear, The, 44
Listening to the Law, 114
Living Hope, The, 97
Living Power, 58

Living Union, 104
Looking unto Jesus, 28
Looking Upward, 79
Lord's Anointed, The, 93
Love from Above, 119
Love—Human and Divine, 55
Love Made Manifest, 50
Love Triumphant, 133
Love Unspeakable, 65
Loving the Father, 51

MAN FAVOURED OF GOD, A, 143
Masquerader, The, 72
Men of Prayer, 69
Mindful of His Own, 118
More Need, More Grace, 46
Motive Power, The, 28
"My Lord and I!" 19

NEED OF RENEWAL, THE, 140
Never Alone! 22
New Creation, The, 119
No Darkness at All, 124
No Other Way, 18
"Nor Blush to Speak His Name," 38
Not a Part, but the Whole, 49
Nothing Between, 137
Nothing Doubting, 117
"Nothing in my Hand I Bring," 31
"Not unto Us—," 118
Now—and Afterward, 104

OF NO AVAIL, 65
"O, Give Thanks!" 122
On Guard, 30
On the Brink, 68
"On the Rock of Ages Founded," 39
One in Christ Jesus, 22
One in Him, 55
"One Step Enough for Me," 37
One Thing Needful, The, 101
One Thing Sure, 74
Only for His Own, 88
Open Door, The, 126
Opened Eyes, 138
Our Father's Business, 94
"Our Heavenly Aaron," 121
Our Rightful Heritage, 21
Outlasting All! 67
Outside of the Cup, The, 7
Over All! 33
Owned and Declared, 35

PARAMOUNT QUESTION, THE, 32
Partakers with God, 139
"Peculiar Care," 85
Perfect Knowledge, 72
Perfect Sacrifice, The, 90
Perpetually New, 152
Pleasing the Father, 125
Powers of Darkness, 150
Power that is God's, 66
Prayer's Demands, 79
Prayer that Prevails, 41
Praying Through, 22
Process of Re-Creation, The, 109
Profitable Praying, 28
Promise of a Kingdom, The, 96
Proved by the Word, 141
Provisional Promises, 86

QUICKENING FLAME, THE, 24

RADIATING GOODNESS, 56
Raised of God, 103
Realm of the Spirit, The, 139
Reasonable Reading, 26
Reasonable Record, The, 33
Receiving Jesus, 48
Relying on God, 29
Rejoicing in the Spirit, 95
Reward of the Resolute, The, 20
Rich Rewards, 100
Rightful Order, The, 129
Rightful Reliance, 125
Righteous Rejoicing, 140
Risking All, 106
Royal Summons, The, 106

SACRED SILENCE, 26
Salvation's Interchange, 23
Satisfying Sacrifice, The, 54
Saved by His Life, 86
Saved Eternally, 37
Saviour and King, 120
Saviour's Quest, The, 74
Searching Out Sin, 60
Secret of Happiness, The, 130
Secret of Power, The, 108
Seeking Souls, 129
Self-Given, 80
Sense of Sin, The, 33
Separating Sin, 74

Serving, Not Saying, 42
Shining Pathway, The, 43
Shut in with God, 101
Sight that Satisfies, The, 25
Simple yet Fathomless, 144
Sin that Bars, 122
Single Aim, The, 15
Solacing Word, The, 154
Something More, 39
Sonship in the Spirit, 102
Sons of God, 88
Spirit of Thanksgiving, 80
Spirit's Leading, The, 130
Spirit's Utterance, The, 124
Spiritual Sustenance, 23
Spiritually Discerned, 133
Spiritual Imperative, The, 136
Stealing the Seed, 64
Strengthening Their Hands, 112
Strength of the Hills, The, 45
"Still, Small Voice of Calm, The," 47
Stooping to Conquer, 52
Submissive to His Will, 155
Sure and Steadfast, 135

"TAKE HEED TO THYSELF," 131
Taken at His Word, 130
Taught of the Spirit, 84
Temple of the Spirit, The, 87
Test Eternal, The, 51
Thankful Heart, The, 63
Thankful Praying, 57
". . . That Inhabiteth Eternity," 14
The Same Eternally! 24
"There is None Beside Thee!" 43
"These," Saith He, "Are Mine!" 80
"Thou God, Seest Me!" 92
Threefold Assurance, 82
Thrice-Pledged, 84
Through Christ to God, 70
"Times are in Thine Hand, The," 128
To be Heard of Men, 70
To Each the Fitting Task, 149
To Every Man his Work, 41
Touchstone of the Spirit, The, 69
Tragedy of the Ages, The, 93
Transforming Power, 37
Transmitted Traits, 116
Transmuting Grace, 65
True Worship, 123
Truly Strong, 148
Trusting Wholly, 108
Truth Incarnate, 94

UNBROKEN PROMISES, 143
Uncleansed Heart, The, 20
Under His Eye, 152
Unending Grace, 138
Unfailing Word, The, 83
Unheard Prayers, 63
Unity of Believers, 137
Universal Law, The, 122
Unsleeping Guard, 59
Unplumbed Depths, 57

VESSELS OF THE LORD, 86
Vicarious Love, 145
Victory of Surrender, The, 112
Vigilance and Victory, 13
Vitally Unchanged, 147
Voice of the Father, The, 85

WELL-PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, 147
"We Thank Thee, Lord . . ." 63
When Day is Done, 107
Where He Leads, 89
Whom to Know is Life, 151
Why He Came, 153
Will and the Witness, The, 127
Will and the Word, The, 47
Without a Peer, 81
Witness of John the Beloved, The, 103
Wonderful Walk, The, 131
Wonders of the Word, The, 88
Word of Assurance, The, 35
Word Infallible, The, 49
Word of Life and Power, The, 61
Words of Jesus, 45
Words of Truth, 71
Worshipping the Father, 77
Worthy Worship, 111
Worthless Praying, 124

"YE BLIND, BEHOLD!" 136

Printed in the United States of America

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